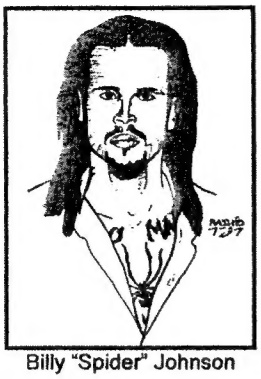
No#14 Spring 2010

# The Liberator

Newsletter of the White Panther Organization
P.O. Box 4362, Allentown, PA 18105

*Editorial*

# Build the International Consciousness of the Working Class: Build WPO Internationally



Billy "Spider" Johnson

Contemporary revolutionaries must keep firmly in mind that we are up against a global empire. While it may be convenient for some of the players to base themselves in this or that country, the workings of the system take place on a scale that transcends boundaries.

These boundaries have lost their importance as far as trade barriers defining only political units within a global marketplace. Most of the main financial transactions take place on a global scale. State banks and international banks are at the top and governments dance to their tune. If the U.S. is eclipsed by some other State – as the U.S. eclipsed the U.K. – it is conceivable and likely that the center of the Empire would be relocated there.

While this country certainly played a decisive role in the creation of the global monopoly capitalist system, it knows no loyalty to the United States or its people. What rules is profits, and capital moves like iron filings to a magnet wherever the rate of profit is highest. Corporations are multinational (at least the major ones are) and owe their loyalty to their big investors only.

Production is now carried on a global scale, and the same corporations exist in most countries exploiting the working class internationally. It stands to reason that our struggle must be international, and we must have international forms of organization. This is what Huey P. Newton of the original Black Panther Party (BPP) was talking about with his *Theory of Revolutionary Intercommunalism.*

National boundaries do still exist – and we must take this into account – the working class must seize power in every country to establish proletarian states, but what we seek is to create an international *dictatorship of the proletariat* to address the issues of socialist reconstruction and move society forward to communism – which must be a global system.

As revolutionaries who make a concrete analysis of concrete conditions and base ourselves on what is new and arising, we see that this globalization has been taking place since capitalist was new and rising. The trade in slaves and European colonization of the rest of the world laid the foundation for capitalism overthrowing feudalism.

Many wars were fought for domination of the seas and for the position of "Top Dawg" among the aspiring imperialist powers. Spain started out on top, but the Dons were surpassed by the Dutch, who were defeated by the English, who beat out the French. Germany's bid came late and gave us World War I & II, out of which the U.S. emerged as the "Top Dawg." Its victory in the "Cold War" assured its position as the sole imperialist superpower, but it also accelerated the pace of the decline of imperialism and the capitalist system overall.

Internationalism is not a new thing for the proletariat (wage slaves), and since the founding of the International Workingmen's Association (the First International) by Karl Marx in 1864, there has been a struggle to unite as a class internationally under revolutionary leadership. It has been a rocky road, but who expected it would be easy?

The increased globalization of the economy makes building this sort of unity all the more possible and necessary. The original BPP did ground-breaking work in promoting *Pantherism* around the world, with branches and chapters in many countries, including; Israel, India, Algeria, Australia, New Zealand, England, France and in the Bahamas. They also provided a theoretical framework for taking this to a higher level.

This final leap – while not fully developed – was taken by Com. Huey P. Newton and his *Theory of Revolutionary Intercommunalism.* He has been proven to have been quite prophetic, in that may of his predictions about the direction things were heading have been proven true.

The New Afrikan Black Panther Party – Prison Chapter (NABPP-PC) and WPO are committed to promoting global revolution and a worldwide united front against capitalist-imperialism. Because the empire is global, we must fight it on all fronts to create more favorable conditions for a revolutionary insurrection here – in the "Belly of the Beast" – to put an end to it.

In Amerika, huge sections of the working class have been neutralized or won to support the capitalist system. In part this is the fault of the Amerikan Left – which has a long history of class-collaboration (selling out) – and partly it is due to the super-profits extracted from the Third World countries, which allowed the capitalists the freedom to carry out bribery of an important strata of industrial workers.

However, times have changed, and many of these jobs have been outsourced overseas. Real wages are the lowest they have been since the 60s, and the division between the rich and the poor is the greatest it has ever been. Conditions here are not nearly as bad as they are in the Third World, but they are worsening year by year, and particularly for the urban poor.

This is the constituency *Pantherism* was designed to represent and bring into revolutionary consciousness. But this must also be internationalist consciousness, and we must take our Party and movement to wherever masses of poor and oppressed people are concentrated: this includes the Third World and Europe.

we need to see ourselves as a network of communities oppressed and exploited by a common enemy and to become a network of *communities of resistance*, each contributing to the common cause of humanity to end oppression and banish exploitation forever. We need to unite – consciously – to share a common proletarian class consciousness, and to train our fire on our enemy – and not each other.

The principle of **"Serve The People!"** is universally applicable. The demand **"All Power To The People!"** is on the agenda everywhere. **"Dare To Struggle Dare To Win!" – Spider**

# MAY DAY

May Day is the annual Declaration of Class War of the international working class. Writing on May 1st, 1890, Frederick Engels called attention to the significance of the first international May Day demonstration:

> "As I write these lines, the proletariat of Europe and America is holding a review of its forces; it is mobilized for the first time as One Army, under One Flag, and fighting for one immediate aim... If only Marx were with me to see it with his own eyes!"
>
> -- Preface to the 4th German edition of *The Communist Manifesto*

Every year, all over the world, workers raise the Red Flag of Revolution on May 1st and show their determination to end the Epoch of Exploitation with World Proletarian Socialist Revolution. Sometimes their demonstrations are banned and the flag outlawed, and sometimes there is a battle with the police. But every year the Red Flag unfurls anyway, and even where there is no public May Day commemoration, workers hear about it or see it on the news. Every year the tramp of work-boots on the pavement and singing of the *Internationale* can be hear across the planet.

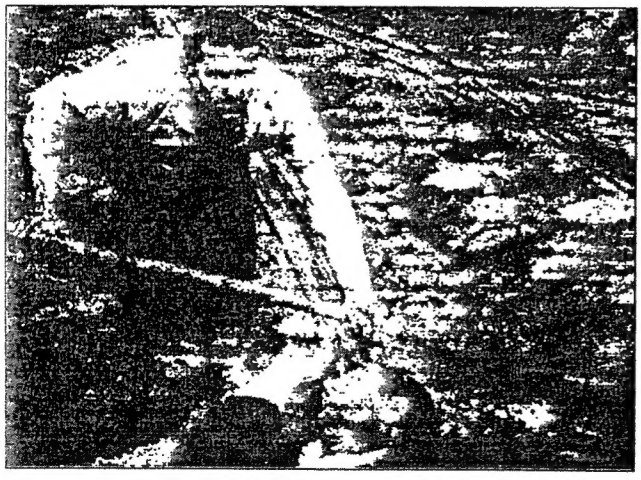
The proletariat – the class of modern wage slaves, who own nothing but their labor power – is unlike any other class that has preceded it. It alone has the historic destiny to be all-the-way revolutionary. Every year there is a tug-o-war to make the proletariat conscious of this. May Day is the conscious expression of this destiny. As Mao Tse-tung expressed it:

> "The socialist system will eventually replace the capitalist system; this is the objective law independent of man's will. However much the reactionaries try to hold back the wheel of history, sooner or later revolution will take place and will inevitably triumph."
>
> "It is up to us to organize the people... Everything reactionary is the same; if you don't hit it, it won't fall... The enemy will not perish of himself. Neither the Chinese reactionaries nor the aggressive forces of U.S. imperialism in China will step down from the stage of history of their own accord."
>
> "All reactionaries are paper tigers. In appearance, the reactionaries are terrifying, but in reality they are not so powerful. From a long-term point of view, it is not the reactionaries but the people who are really powerful."
>
> -- from *Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-tung*

May Day is a time to focus on the long-term point of view and give the people a taste of their own power, and link the struggles of today with the socialist future. It is a time for bold speeches and proletarian pride. It is a time to express our international solidarity and our confidence in our ultimate victory.

Long Live the First of May!

Long Live International Workers Day!



## May Day joint declaration statement by: Maoist Communist Party of Italy, Maoist Communist Party of France, Maoist Communist Party of Turkey

Posted by ajadhind on April 25, 2009

1st of MAY 2009:

WE WON'T PAY YOUR CRISIS!

AGAINST THE CAPITALISM AND THE CONCILIATORS! UNITY AT THE BASE!

LET'S RETURN BLOW FOR BLOW!

LET'S BUILD THE PARTY FOR THE SEIZURE OF THE POWER FOR THE PROLETARIANS FOR A NEW SOCIETY, WITHOUT CRISIS, EXPLOITATION OPPRESSION AND POVERTY!

The current capitalist crisis does not come from the heaven, it the logic of the system itself, it comes from the economic and political choices of the bourgeois (right or "left") governments. In a class society like that in which we live the governments serve the bourgeois Glass and the interest of the bourgeoisie is to preserve the capitalism and its position of ruling class on the whole society.

Yet on the 1848 Marx and Engels wrote: "how does the bourgeoisie overcome the crisis? On one hand, by violently destroying a mass of productive forces, on the other one by winning new markets and more deeply exploiting the old ones" (manifesto of the Communist Party).

That is what we see today: responsible for the crisis, the capitalists unload the effects on the proletarians and the masses in the imperialist countries and the people in oppressed countries, intensifying the exploitation: sackings, protracting the work time, massively applying the precarious job etc. Indeed, the bourgeoisie uses the crisis of the capitalist system to restructure and "improve" it, for whose advantage? Of course, not for the people! In the framework of this restructuration on global scale and in order to maintain their domination, the bourgeois have to put in practice a form of modern fascism to impose their economic and political reforms and to safeguard their interests at national, European and international level.

Therefore they need to wipe out any opposition to their politics, to crush the struggles and the unavoidable uprising of the masses and their organizations, particularly the revolutionary, socialist and communist ones.

The modern fascism takes different form according the different countries but the bourgeoisie uses them to rally to its interests a part of the working class -the "aristocracy" and the nationalist part of it -and the petit bourgeoisie. In front of this, the reformist parties and the leaderships of the unions try to gain credit as reasonable opponents. The reality shows they are indeed docile "social partners", ready to negotiate the sackings, to participate the reforms, to make the proletarian accept the sacrifices to set the capital in its feet again. When they have the power, they use a little of wax to smoothly apply their "left" reforms but, like their rightist partners, they always grant compensations to the owners. This conciliation with the bourgeoisie strengthens the owners and the modern fascism, on the contrary, we need so support the struggle against the sackings that the workers are developing in new forms, we need to protract the strikes more than one day. It is about revolution that we speak when we speak about a solution of the crisis! If we do not overthrow and substitute the capitalist system with the socialism toward the communism our conditions of life will

never change!" The weapons the bourgeois used to overthrow the feudalism today turn against themselves.

Not only had they forged the weapons that will kill them: they also made the men who will use those weapons- the modern workers, the proletarians" – the workers' and people's struggles develop throughout the Europe: in France, Germany, Italy as well as in the eastern countries – Poland, Romania, and Russia; and in the world: in Latin America, China, Asia and Africa. The people in Guadalupe, Martinique, Reunion, Palestine, resist. The people's wars are developed or prepared, led by the communist parties of new type (Maoist).

In India the people's war reaches states in which a number of hundreds millions people live, it advances in South Asia where new communist parties are constituted in Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, it goes on in Peru, it grows in Turkey, it develops in Philippines. In Nepal ten years of people's war and the mass political struggle led the Maoists to develop the complex stage of the new-democratic revolution. We must support all those struggles attacking the capitalist-imperialist system with the perspective to substitute it with a system that will abolish the poverty, the oppression and the exploitation!

The revolution will not come by itself; we need to build the necessary tools to develop it! We need communist parties of new type (Maoist) to seize the power for the proletarians, to put an end to the exploitation and oppression that restrain the harmonious development of the humanity as a whole. In the country where the people's war is the embryonic stage, we have to strengthen it. It is the matter for the proletarians, for all those fight in the different front of struggle and seek the way to overturn the system. The development of a real united front of the people must be boosted by the vanguard proletarians opposing the reformist and opportunist parties, the conciliating politics and "the leaderships of the unions.

Therefore our main tasks are: To build the Party in the fire of the class struggle and closely linked with the masses. To intervene on the base of the concrete analysis of the concrete situation in order to get united with the vanguard proletarians and the and the mass movements. To build and coordinate the base organization for a class union. To establish ourselves amongst the youth in the *banlieues* to build the revolutionary organization of the youth. To bring support and leadership to struggles of the student, the migrants the squatters, etc. To struggle against the repression, developing campaigns and a mass proletarian Red Relief. At international level to support all the anti-imperialist struggles and the people's wars. To give our contribution to the new unity of the communist parties on the basis of the proletarian internationalism and establishing the Marxism-Leninism-Maoism as the only path of the revolution.

Maoist Communist Party of Italy

Maoist Communist Party of France

Maoist Communist Party of Turkey

## Statement by *Democracy and Class Struggle* Posted by Member-WPRM (Britain)

**January 30, 2010**

Democracy and Class Struggle welcomes the meeting in Paris on 30th-31st January 2010 which seeks to develop Marxist Leninist Maoist Party building in Europe.

In Britain we have embarked on the preparatory stage of party building through the **Co-ordination Committee of the Revolutionary Communists of Britain.**

We agree with the Maoist Communist Party of France in the paper Drapeau Rouge concerning the rise of Fascism in Europe and Party building in the following statement.

**Modern Fascism or Fascisation? Revival of Fascist Organisations Danger of Return to Fascism in its Initial Form.**

*"It is not the case today that the principal question of opposing fascism is to prepare to assume leadership of a United Front, it is a question of the Party.*

*"The adherents of fascisation put off the appointed day with the excuse that it is necessary to win the masses over before building a Party. In fact it is necessary for links to be built with the masses in struggle led by the Party and to*

*learn with them the fusion of theory and practice. They lament the absence of a Party but refuse to go to the masses under the Maoist banner contrary to those communists and Maoists who preceded us and who built the vanguard parties of their day."*

Democracy and Class Struggle calls on all those present at the Paris meeting to support the call for a higher level of solidarity with the current struggle of the Indian Maoists has outlined in the campaign Wake Europe up to the crimes of the Indian State with Spring Thunder Europe 2010.

We also welcome your call for International Red Aid at a national and international level as a means for developing the necessary higher levels of solidarity than at present.

We welcome the meeting in Paris as a contribution to the building of Marxist Leninist Maoist parties throughout Europe and wish your meeting every possible success.

Democracy and Class Struggle – Britain

# The Maison Norman Bethune

## A New Maoist Bookstore in Montreal

The Political Information Bureau [of the Revolutionary Communist Party (Canada)] is announcing the opening of the Maison Norman Bethune -- unique in Canada -- aiming to be both an information center and an organizing space to support the struggle for socialism and world revolution.

This project is especially important in the current situation, where capitalism is going through one of its worst crises and where more and more people are expressing renewed interest in struggling for a system based on the interests of the majority and workers' power.

Located in the heart of Montreal's Centre-Sud neighborhood, the Maison Norman Bethune will make a variety of documents available to those interested: the classic works of Marx, Lenin and Mao, works on revolutionary history, publications from contemporary revolutionary organizations such as the Revolutionary Communist Party (Canada), books and texts about current events and socialism, and in all languages In short, the Maison Norman Bethune aims to distribute all that can serve the revolution.

The Maison Norman Bethune also intends to be a space open to workers and revolutionary and anti-capitalist activists who hunger for knowledge and wish to organize themselves to not simply stir up new hope for communism and revolution, but a concrete and immediate project to make them a reality -- It is also the place to contact the Political Information Bureau and to learn about the positions and activities of the Revolutionary Communist Party.

For the moment, the Maison Norman Bethune is open Wednesday to Saturday (see below). Over the coming weeks, the team which runs it will work to expand and improve the collection of books and publications available. Regular activities (speakers, video nights, etc.) will also be organized, and a schedule will soon be announced.

The opening of the Maison Norman Bethune itself represents an important victory in the struggle against the propaganda the bourgeoisie and the unitary vision that its acolytes have been trying to brainwash us with for so long now. It is up to us and us alone, workers and militants who wish to bring forward the liberatory voice of communism and to develop revolutionary action which will put an end to the capitalist system whose time is up, to make this a lively space and a tool in the service of the struggle of the proletariat and the oppressed masses in this country.

The Political Information Bureau calls on all revolutionary, progressive, and anti-imperialist militants to support the Maison Norman Bethune. You have books to give us? You know someone, an activist or former activist, who still has some "hidden treasures?" You want to contribute financially to this project or to offer a bi of time to help out? Let us know, and a militant from the Political Information Bureau will contact you right away to follow up on your proposal.

And most importantly, come and drop by the Maison Norman Bethune, and spread the word!

The Political Information Bureau

**Maison Norman Bethune**
Bookstore & Political Information Bureau
1918, rue Frontenac
MontreaJ (Qc) H2K2Z1
(across the street from Frontenac metro)
514563-1487

**Opening Hours:**

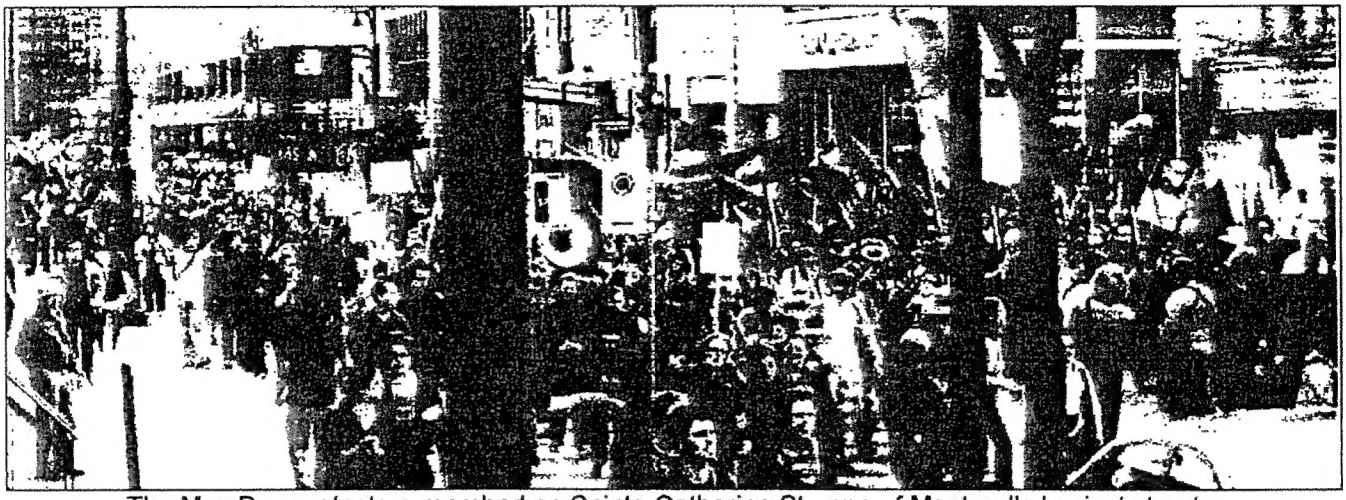
Wednesday: 12:30 – 6 pm

Thursday: 12:30 – 9pm

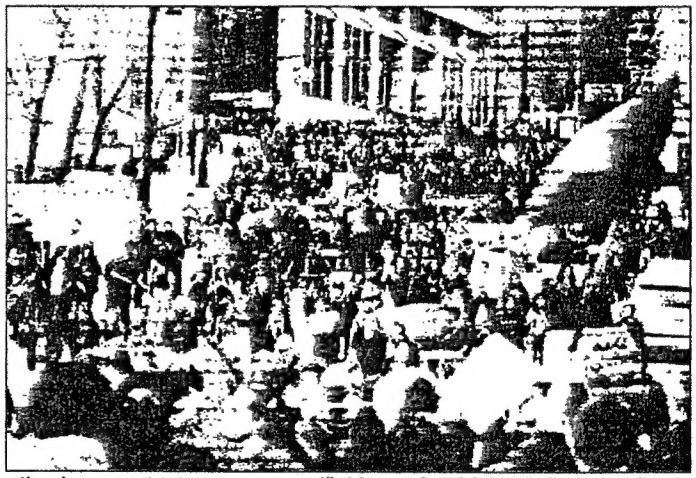
Friday: 12:30 – 9pm

Saturday: 10:00 – 5pm

# May Day in Montreal 2009



The May Day protestors marched on Sainte-Catherine St., one of Montreal's busiest streets.



The lead banner read "Capitalism causes our misery! Let's demonstrate our anger!" About 2,500 people marched.

Supporters of the Maoist *Revolutionary Communist Party* brought their red flags and those of the Anarcho-Communist *Union communiste libertaire* carried their red and black ones.

spokesperson of the Ministry of Interior who informed mass media that a member of the KSM had been arrested by police because of his violent attack against the police during an antifascist demonstration. This untrue claim was refused and denounced by the KSM and also by the arrested person himself who declared that he had not been and was not a member of the KSM. We also face an increased endeavour of the secret service to infiltrate our organization and we have made measures against it.

The fundamental rights and freedoms in the Czech Republic are under attack. This attack is focused in the first line against the communists, but in the second line against anybody who struggles against imperialism and capitalism. To be specific I will give you an example, the KSM has launched last-year as the first NGO in our country a very successful campaign against a plan to place a U.S. military base in the Czech Republic. Later we were joined by other organizations. We have gathered so far more than 85 000 signatures under our petition against the U.S. military base. Besides our communist campaign we are active also within a broader initiative NO TO MILITARY BASES. The authorities have so far prohibited 2 of anti-base protest demonstrations organized by this initiative. In spite of this fact the initiative with an active participation of the KSM carried out these 2 prohibited demos anyway. I want to show you the tendency of limiting the fundamental civic and democratic rights in our country which has started with anticommunist witch hunt.

Regarding our struggle against the ban, we want to defeat the Ministry of Interior at the court. If we fail at the Supreme Court then we appeal to the Constitutional Court. We will continue our activity under any conditions. In the case that the courts confirm the decision of the Ministry our further activity would be considered as violation of the decision of the court and then our activists may be put into trial and jailed. The future is unclear but we count with any possibility.

**3°. How are you struggling against the banning, in the legal field as well as in the daily fight?**

At present, the KSM has filed an action against the Ministry of Interior's decision and as I have said we endeavour to defeat the Ministry in the court.

Our response to anticommunist banning of the KSM is developing our daily activities. We are in the forehead of the struggle against the U.S. military base in the Czech Republic which is one of the most important issues in the political life in our country at present time. We defend interests of the majority of the working people and the youth, for example we struggle against attempts to introduce fees for university studies. We are also a backbone of the left-wing within the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia, our responsibilities are big. And we develop our activities among the people, we establish contacts with other NGOs, we create new local organizations of the KSM.

The KSM also hosted at the end of October 2006 the 5th Meeting of European Communist Youth Organizations under slogan "Struggle of European Youth against Attacks on Social and Democratic Rights -- Militant Offensive against Anticommunism! For Decent Life and Socialist Future for the Youth!". This meeting was attended by so far largest number of participating organizations including as a guest also a president of World Federation of Democratic Youth. The participants discussed ways of coordination of common struggle of European young communists against anti-communism, planned concrete activities and declared full support to the KSM.

**4°. Have the international solidarity actions reached your expectations?**

Yes, and even much more. The international solidarity campaign has been unbelievably strong!

The KSM's partners abroad mobilized the public opinion in their countries, pub1ished information in their media, organized a number of petitions including very effective internet petitions, organized a large number of demonstrations in front of embassies of the Czech Republic in their countries and bombed the Czech embassies, government and Ministry of Interior with protest letters.

It was also important to win a number of well known personalities who used the weight of their authority to back the cause of the KSM like Nobel prize laureate Dario Fo, singer Bono from U2, Subcomandante Insurgente Marcos, and others.

The international solidarity campaign has been a great success. And it continues! The KSM puts stress on the need to develop further the international solidarity campaign to put pressure on the Czech Republic and to inform the foreign public about anti-communist anti-democratic acts in our country.

**5°. How can people in Brazil support the KSM and the defence of basic democratic rights in the Czech Republic?**

They may send their protests to the embassy or missions of the Czech Republic in Brazil:

Embaixada da Republica Tcheca

Via L 3/Sul, ad. 805, Lote 21, Brasilia

Caixa postal 170

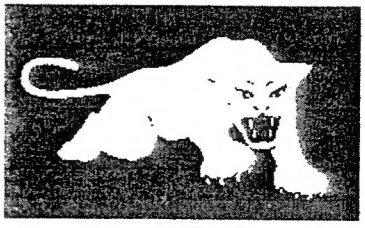
CEP 70414-900

tel: 005561/32427785, 32427905

fax: 005561/32427833

e-mail: brasilia@embass~.mzv.czTato adresa je chranena proti spamovani, pro jeji zobrazeni potrebujete mit Java scripty povoleny

web: www.mzv.cz/brasilia



## A European reaction to India's counter insurgency and military interference in other countries

**Tuesday, January 26, 2010**

*From Party of the Committees to Support Resistance - for Communism (CARC) - Italy:*

### To Democracy and Class Struggle

And, for their information, to the other organizations and parties signatories of the campaign Wake Europe up to crimes of Indian State with Spring Thunder Europe 2010:

1. Maoist Communist Party of France,
2. (new) Italian Communist Party,
3. CARC Party (Italy),
4. Serve The People (Norway),
5. Co-ordination Committee of Revolutionary Communists of Britain,
6. Revolutionary Praxis -Britain.
7. WPRM Britain
8. And to all concerned parties and organizations

Dear comrades,

We congratulate you on launching the campaign Wake Europe up to crimes of Indian State with Spring Thunder Europe 2010. We invite other parties and organizations to join this campaign.

We propose the signatories constitute an International Coordination for promoting and spreading the campaign. We are thinking of something like the coordination promoting the campaign BDS (Boycotting-Disinvestment-Sanctions) against Israel (http://www.bds-info.ch), or the one here in Italy promoting the campaign for mobilize immigrants and autochthonous on 1st March "A day without immigrants: 24 hours without us."

(http://grimomarz02010.blogspot.cm/.

We propose the International Coordination drafts a Call that every signatory will wide spread on international level and that everyone will translate and wide spread distribute in its own country. This Call should be addressed to Communists, vanguard workers, progressive and democratic people. It should shortly but effectively indicate 1. the objectives of the campaign, 2. the reasons why democratic and progressive people and Communists allover the world must demonstrate against the crimes of Indian Union government and against the war (the operation Green Hunt) it launched. We have to proclaim international solidarity with the targets of the criminal war launched by Indian Union government: the tribals (the Adivasis) and the Maoists. We have to indicate some main instruments of the campaign (conferences, local committees, articles and reports on newspapers, television, radio, Internet, initiatives as films, exhibitions, demonstrations, sit-in, etc.).

According to us, in this call we must describe the conditions of misery to which Indian Union government and British imperialism before it reduced Adivasis and backwardness and oppression they suffer more than 60 years after Indian Union independence on 1947, the expulsion of Adivasis from their territories the Indian Union and the federate State gave to the multinationals (nature, size and duration of ongoing operation, that is the source of Adivasis' resistance, supported and promoted by Maoists), the destruction of (how many?) square kilometers of forest and following deterioration of the planet, the other wars Indian Union government is already waging for years in North Western and North Eastern India, US imperialists and Israeli Zionists' role in Indian Union government's criminal deeds, the merits of Maoists, already active in whole territory of Indian Union, who gave a progressive and effective direction to Adivasis' resistance, etc. All these issues must be dealt synthetically but effectively in the Call.

We propose every one of the signatories indicate to the others 1. the instruments he has for the campaign (interviews, films, exhibitions, websites, blogs, etc.) and maybe the others can use, 2. the international contacts by which he thinks to extend the campaign, 3. the national initiatives (whom to contact for each organism, whom to mobilize, some public initiative we already are planning, etc.) he is going to promote (someway a first draft of campaign planning).

The CARC Party will publish an article on the issue on its monthly paper *Resistenz8*. It is getting in touch with leaders of the movement defending human, civil and political rights in India and journalists in Italy for publishing interviews on Italian national newspapers.

It invites parties and organizations of the International Communist Movement to join the campaign. Particularly we invite to join it MLPD and KOE, which representatives participated in the meeting we held on the end of November

2007 in London, where many exponents of the international communist movement defined the lines of development of the campaign that there your organization Democracy and Class Struggle launched.

It proposes the coordination with the many initiatives already developing about the matter on European level. Firstly, we propose to contact ILPS that already launched an initiative of protest at La Hague, and plan to organize another one on March.

It proposes to invite an exponent of the movement of defense of human, political and civil rights of Indian people for a tour in many European nations.

It plans to deal with the matter in the international aggregations it participates in.

It plans to organize initiatives in coordination with other forces concerned or already operating here in Italy. First of all, the Proletarian Solidarity Association participates in the initiatives planned or to be planned, as it is particularly interested in the matter of repression and of political prisoners, as the repressive action of the Indian State is one of the cruelest and most barbaric of the whole world.

We also inform that the Anti-Imperialist Camp, whose Italian section we are in touch with, will send a delegation in India in the first days of February, as in next summer it plans to organize an intervention that gathers many people from our countries and sends them to India for some weeks in the areas the Indian Union government wants to attack.

This is a first draft of work plan s regards our Party on national and international level. We shall be glad to know as soon as possible what you think about our proposals.

With comradely greetings,

Paolo Babini

CARC Party - International Relations Department

## Communists in the Jim Crow South

Posted on onehundredflowers on February 16, 2010 originally posted on npr.org

How 'Communism' Brought Racial Equality To The South

*Tell Me More* continues its Black History Month series of conversations with a discussion about the role of the Communist Party. It was prominent in the fight for racial equality in the south, specifically Alabama, where segregation was most oppressive. Many courageous activists were communists. Host Michel Martin speaks with historian Robin Kelley about his book *"Hammer and Hoe: Alabama Communists During the Great Depression"* about how the communist party tried to secure racial, economic, and political reforms.
Transcript:

**MICHEL MARTIN**, host:

I'm Michel Martin, and this is TELL ME MORE from NPR News.

Coming up, what's going on in your house? But it doesn't look like the set of *Leave It to Beaver.* Writer Rebecca Walker wanted to capture the many new faces of the American family. Well talk about her provocative collection of essays in a few minutes.

But first, we continue our Black History Month series of conversations. Throughout this Black History Month, we have been focusing on new news about black history, new scholarship that has emerged in recent decades that sheds new light on the story of black people in America.

Today, we want to hear about communists in the civil rights movement. Now, that's a sensitive subject since those working for equality have often been accused of being communist in this country, but some were.

And were joined now by Robin Kelley, author of *Hammer and Hoe: Alabama Communists During the Great Depression*. It documents how the Communist Party worked to secure racial, economic and political justice. He's a professor of American studies and history at the University of Southern California. And this semester, he's the Harmsworth Professor of American History at the University of Oxford. And we welcome you to the program. Thank you for joining us.

**Professor ROBIN KELLEY** (American History, University of Oxford; Author, *Hammer and Hoe: Alabama Communists During the Great Depression):* Thanks, Michel. It's great to be here.

**MARTIN:** How did you get interested in this topic? And as I mentioned, it is a sensitive topic because there are those, for decades, who've worked to tamp down the suggestion that anybody in the civil rights movement was attracted to the Communist Party at all.

**Prof. KELLEY:** Exactly. And this is a story that actually predates the civil rights movement as we know it, going back to the 1930s. I became interested in this as a doctorate dissertation back in the mid-80s when I was very active in other social movements in actually in the L.A. area. And I wanted to know how the Communist Party organized

African-Americans, particularly in places where black people were the majority.

And so, at first, my study took me to South Africa. And I was planning to do a comparative study looking at South Africa and the West South. I couldn't get into South Africa in 1986 because of the state of emergency. And so, I discovered the second blackest place in the world and that is Alabama. And there, I discovered a very vibrant movement that very few people wrote about, there basically are two stories. One memoir by a man named Hosea Hudson and then another story in a book called *All Gods Dangers* which is about an African-American sharecropper.

**MARTIN:** *All Gods Dangers: The Life* of *Nate Shaw,* I remember that.

**Prof. KELLEY:** Exactly. But his real name was Ned Cobb. Nate Shaw was a pseudonym. And its a beautiful book that tells his life story and only a portion of it deals with his membership in the communist-led sharecroppers union, which at one point had about 12,000 members in the black belt counties of Alabama.

**MARTIN:** And were all the members black?

**Prof. KELLEY:** Well, in Alabama, there was a point when basically all the members, except one, were all African-American sharecroppers and tenant farmers.

**MARTIN:** How did the Communist Party gets started in Alabama?

**Prof. KELLEY:** In 1928, the communist position internationally was that African-Americans in the South have the right to self-determination. Meaning: they have the right to create their own nation in the South. In this position that came out of Moscow, it came from other black communists around the globe.

And with that idea in mind, they sent two organizers to Alabama and they went to Birmingham. And they chose Birmingham because it was probably the most industrialized city in the South. And they went there thinking they would organize white workers. And from white workers, black workers would follow. But no white workers had come forward.

And so, the first two organizers was a guy named James Julio(ph), who was a Sicilian worker who had migrated to Alabama, and another guy named Tom Johnson(ph), and together they went out looking for white workers and black workers came.

And black workers came in fairly large numbers right away because to them, they had a memory of reconstruction, the memory of the Civil War. And in that kind of collective memory, they were told that one day the Yankees will come back and finish the fight. Well, when they saw these white communists, they said, oh, good, the Yankees are here. We cant wait to join.

**MARTIN:** What was the Communist Party's message at that time and why were these black folks so attracted to it?

**Prof. KELLEY:** Well, there were three things they focused on. One, because it was during the Great Depression, their primary focus was the unemployed. And so their demands were, we want either work or some kind of support from the government. The second thing was, in 1931, we had the famous Scottsboro case, where nine young black men were arrested falsely for raping two white women and they end up going to jail.

Well, these cases happen all the time where black men are falsely accused. The difference was that the Communist Party made the Scottsboro issue an international issue. They put it in the newspapers. They spread the word all 9ver the globe in different languages. And these unknown figures, some of them became a kind of (unintelligible).

And finally, the third thing was basic civil rights: the right to vote, the right to sit on juries, you know, the right to not be Jim Crowed or segregated. These things certainly drew out black working people.

**MARTIN:** You know, there are civil rights organizations that had the same agenda like the NAACP, for example, which was formed in 1909. Was there overlap between traditional civil rights groups that we know today and the Communist Party or were they are very separate?

**Prof. KELLEY:** Initially, when the Communist Party arrived and began organizing black workers, the NAACP in Birmingham and all of Jefferson County was just sort of a shadow of itself. They had six dues-paying members. The Communist Party had about 500. And why is that? Because the NAACP at that time, at least locally, was interested in supporting black business and the black elite and the black middle class. They didn't really have a civil rights agenda per se.

And when the Scottsboro case opened up, the leader of the NAACP, Walter White, his concern was whether or not these boys did it. Whereas the communists said, look, we know that they're class war prisoners. We know that they're victims. And they made a big case out of it. "

SO, pretty soon, the NAACP and the Communist Party began competing for the hearts and minds of the parents of the boys. And nationally, NAACP leaders said that, look, whatever you do, don't let the communist win.

**MARTIN:** At its height, how many members would you say the Communist Party had in Alabama, particularly among African-Americans?

**Prof. KELLEY:** Well, there's a couple of ways to think about this. One, in terms of actual dues-paying members, they never had more than 600, 700. But then, if you look at all the other auxiliary organizations, the International Labor Defense, which focused on civil rights issues, they had up to 2,000. The Sharecroppers Union had up to 12,000. You had the International Workers Order. You had the League of Young Southerners. You had the Southern Negro Youth Congress. If you add up all these organizations, it touched the lives easily of 20,000 people.

**MARTIN:** There is a lot about this period that is not talked about today, for example, the way lynchings actually occur, you know, as public spectacle or something. And I mean, a lot of people like to think that these are like isolated incidents when they were not. And so, one of the things that I think people do understand is how violently the political white establishment -lets just say it -would fight back against attempts to organize among blacks. It sort of put down any

sort of stirrings of leadership. So, how did all these people function in these organizations?

**Prof. KELLEY:** Well, we have to divide the history of the party up into two periods. From 1930 to about 35, they were really underground, you know? After 35, they kind of came aboveground and tried to become legitimate. And that's another story. But lets talk about the underground period. On the one hand, they did have public demonstrations and it did confront the police. Many people were beaten during these demonstrations, including white activists who are communists.

But how do they maneuver? What they had to do was basically take advantage of the invisibility as black people to function. Give (unintelligible) example, whenever they had to put out leaflets, sometimes black women who are communists would pose as laundry workers and carry what appeared to be laundry into the house of a white comrade. But inside those baskets, might be paper and a mimeograph machine.

**MARTIN:** Hmm.

**Prof. KELLEY:** And then they would make the mimeograph. Then they bring the leaflets out to pass these leaflets on to workers who would go to their jobs. And when no one's looking, drop the leaflets on the ground, let the wind blow them everywhere and pretend like they don't know anything about it. In the rural areas, they might put up, you know, little posters and leaflets up in trees late at night when no one will see them. And then, you know, if you compare, say, a place like New York City where in the period when so many families were being evicted from their apartments because they cant pay the rent, what they do in New York is they confront the police. They put the furniture back in the house, they'd stand up.

But in Alabama they do little secret things, like if the water was turned off, communists would figure out a way to turn the water back on. Or if the electricity was turned off, they used jumper cables to run electricity. Or, if someone got evicted from their home, the communists, as a group, would go to the landlord and say, look you have a choice, you need to put that guy or that family back into their house or the next day your house may turn into firewood.

My favorite story is, you know, one of the big issues for unemployed people was getting relief from social workers. And sometimes it would be impossible just to get your basic flour and lard and whatever. And whenever workers had trouble with social workers, the Communist Party would get penny postcards and write on these penny postcards, anonymously: The workers are watching you. And send them to the social worker.

**MARTIN:** Hmm.

**Prof. KELLEY:** To threatening them to basically give the people what they need. And so, these are all ways in which they maintained an invisibility, but were very, very present on behalf of the working class.

**MARTIN:** If you're just joining us, you're listening to TELL ME MORE from NPR News. I'm speaking with historian Robin Kelley for our Black History Month series. We're talking about African-Americans and the Communist Party in Alabama. He wrote about it in his book *Hammer and Hoe.* How successful do you think the Communist Party was at brining about a change in Alabama, which is the place that you seem to think it was the most effective or widespread, or at least the most present in this period? And the reason 1m asking is that even now, I mean, Alabama has yet to elect an African-American to a state white office, for example.

**Prof. KELLEY:** Right. "

**MARTIN:** One person who is running now, Congressman Artur Davis. But if he's look he will be the first till 2010. So, how effective do you think the Alabama Communist Party was?

**Prof. KELLEY:** Well, I think it was very effective in some areas. One, even in training and organizing. Some of the most important organizers in steel, in iron were communists; who, after 1935, were some of the lead organizers in training and organizing, which really made a difference in workers lives in the 50s and 60s. The other thing is that there were many people who were trained in the Communist Party who went on to become Civil Rights activists. Asbury Howard, who was a radical (unintelligible) who went on to play a significant role in Alabama's Civil Rights Movement.

And then, Rosa Parks. What does Rosa Parks have to do with any of this? Well, some of her first political activities were around the Scottsboro case, you know? She never joined the party, but as a young woman, she and her husband, in fact, attended some of the meetings. Then the other area is, just in the rural areas -- this may seem like a small thing, but imagine if you're picking cotton at basically 30 cents a day and you fight and fight and you can get your wages up to 50 cents or a dollar a day. It took about five years and a lot of blood shed, but they were able to raise the wages as a result.

So, they may not be huge victories, but I know one thing, the infrastructure that was laid forward becomes the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama, was laid in many ways, not entirely, by the Communist Party.

**MARTIN:** Why do you think this history isn't better known? I mean, these are not the names and the faces that you see on the calendars?

**Prof. KELLEY:** They are not. And part of it has to do with a long history and the Cold War, and the fact that we think of communist as these terrible horrendous people. But more importantly, if you think of them as somehow outside of American culture and history, when what I and others who have written on similar areas have argued, is that is very much native and home grown. I mean, the Communist Party in Alabama, they began their meetings with a prayer.

These were Christians. These people believed in Jesus, in redemption. And they believed in armed self defense, and they believed that Russia would come and save them if anything got to be really bad. It just made perfect sense to those who lived in that period.

**MARTIN:** What happened to the Communist Party in Alabama? How do it... does it still exist - I guess, maybe it

would be the question. I don't know. Are they still there? Is anybody still around?

**Prof. KELLEY:** They are sort of around actually, but not like they were. What happened to them? Two things: After 1935, the party decided to come above ground and build alliances with liberals and others who are not communists, but who are against Nazi Germany and Italy and that sort of thing. So, what ends up happening is that, you can form alliances with liberals in New York -- you can't do that in Alabama because white liberals are not that friendly -- southern liberals. And so, what they did was they gave up a lot of the militancy. They gave up their industrial base and other things for the sake of building alliance with people who don't want to form alliance with them.

And so they lost interest. And many of their main activists left the South and moved North. The other thing that happened was, Bull Connor, who was very active (unintelligible) becomes like the man in the 40s and 50s. And Bull Connor and his police force waged a war on the Communist Party in the middle 40s. By that time, the main organization was called the Southern Negro Youth Congress, which was not entirely communist, but it was a group of young black men and women who, in fact, prefigured SNCC, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. And they had their last meeting in Birmingham in 1948 under enormous police repression and violence.

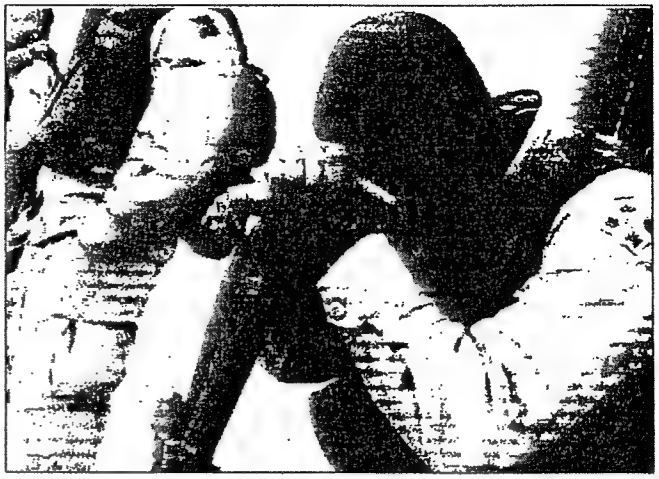
And that sort of spelled the end of them. And so by that time the Communist Party itself, on a national scale, was declining with the Cold War, and the Smith Act and other things which let people to go underground or go to jail. So, it was part of a national process of snuffing out the Community Party as a whole.

**MARTIN:** Hmm. So, what would you hope people would take away from all the work that you've done, documenting this history?

**Prof. KELLEY:** Well, first what I really emphasize is the fact that these were ordinary people, most of whom could not read or write, who were able to, on their own, form a very strong and productive movement that saw not just black peoples problems, but all peoples problems as connected. They saw joblessness and Civil Rights, and the right not be raped or lynched, self-protection -- that all these things are part of one big struggle. And they really did succeed in building an interracial movement. Even if the whites were In' the minority, those whites were there with them. And that vision, that ordinary people can make change, was a legacy they left us.

**MARTIN:** Historian Robin Kelley is author of *Hammer and Hoe: Alabama Communists During the Great Depression.* He is professor of American Studies at the University of Southern California. But he joined us from the U.K. where he's current serving as Harmsworth Professor of American history at the University of Oxford. And his latest book is *Thelonious Monk: The Life and Times of an American Original.* Thank you so much for contributing to our Black History Month series.

**Prof. KELLEY:** Thank you, really enjoyed it.



# The War and the Working Class

by MICHAEL ZWEIG

*This article appeared in the March 31, 2008 edition of* The Nation.

The government treats its soldiers the way most corporations treat their workforce -- as an invisible, disrespected, disposable means to an end that is contrary to workers' interests. Members of the armed forces come mainly and disproportionately from the working class and from small-town and rural America, where opportunities are hard to come by. The "economic draft" operates, in effect, to recruit young people from these communities as they sign up to gain job skills, experience and educational opportunities absent from their civilian lives.

A number of parallel experiences link the lives of soldiers with those of working-class civilians, going well beyond their common discipline of following orders. Consider "stop-loss" as an example. The military reserves the right to extend the deployment time and active-duty status of every soldier beyond the service dates prescribed in their enlistment contracts and mobilization papers. Most soldiers were unaware of this as the Iraq War intensified, but by the start of2006 the military had enforced its stop-loss provision on 50,000 of them. Outraged soldiers and their families challenged these extensions in court, but they were upheld. Meanwhile, in the civilian economy, one out of every five full-time hourly employees worked mandatory overtime -- the requirement by management that the worker stay on the job beyond the normal quitting time. Many workers want overtime for the money, but they generally resent being forced into it, especially when it disrupts family plans or taxes their physical or mental strength. While the consequences of stop-loss are more far-reaching, the principle is the same. Both disregard the needs of the workforce and abrogate the expectations working people have of a life outside the control of their employers.

Counter-recruitment activity, an important element of the anti-Iraq War movement, responds to the many ways recruiters imply commitments to prospective enlistees that the military is under no obligation to keep and promise benefits that in the end do not materialize -- a pattern with many parallels in working-class civilian life. Common among

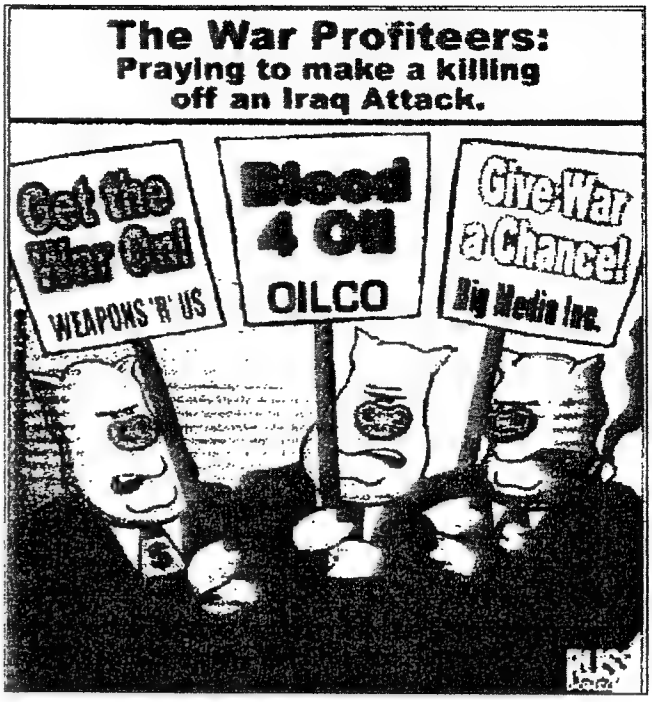
the misleading enticements are offers of training that will lead to civilian employment in good jobs; education benefits to pay for college costs and even the signing bonuses, $10,000 or more, that can seem like a fortune to the kids at the desk. The most outrageous reason for yanking back the signing benefits comes when a soldier leaves the military before the full commitment is over because of severe com bat injuries.. The military, insisting that the benefits are contingent on honorable discharge after completing the full term of service, has moved to take back the signing bonuses that injured service members, unable to complete their tours, have already collected. To com bat these practices, young people, often accompanied by veterans with their own stories to tell, are challenging military recruiters in high schools, shopping malls and other places where recruiters seek out volunteers to fill their quotas. Congressional attempts to stop these abuses have so far been unsuccessful.

These bait-and-switch practices are reminiscent of the way corporations demand local and state government subsidies to locate offices and factories in depressed communities desperate for jobs. Such corporations typically promise good jobs and long-term economic stability local communities underwrite roads and other infrastructure, give tax exemptions for the company's property and profits, and sometimes even give it direct cash subsidies. All too often the company collects the subsidies but fails to live up to its end of the bargain. It fails to create the promised new jobs and moves out of the community when the subsidies end, leaving the local working people and their government depleted and often mad enough to sue, but almost never successfully.

When jobs disappear, workers are supposed to be able to collect unemployment compensation, a program begun in the New Deal era and a critical part of the social safety net. But over the last thirty-five years, unemployment compensation programs have been cut back and made more inaccessible. At this point, only 35 percent of unemployed workers actually collect these benefits.

In the military we also see problems in the amount and quality of benefits provided to discharged soldiers. Last year's scandal at Walter Reed Army Medical Center shocked the nation, but veterans' organizations across the country are regularly forced to fend off proposed cuts. Just as corporate employers fight against claims for workers' compensation by injured employees, the military resists treatment for service-related disabilities, such as the psychological damage from post-traumatic stress disorder or the physical aftereffects of Agent Orange from the Vietnam era.

In the United States We rightly have a tradition of civilian control of the military. Our armed services are not independent entities; they are deployed to defend and advance the interests of greatest importance to the civilian leadership that guides the country overall. So it is unsurprising that the basic priorities guiding our military operations overseas should correspond to those that dominate our society at home. That's not good news for working people, here or "over there."




In Iraq the occupation authority under Paul Bremer wiped the slate clean in terms of economic policy, with one exception – it kept in force the 1987 Saddam Hussein decree that stripped all legal protection from unions representing public-sector workers – a large portion of the workforce. Despite formal acknowledgment of union rights in the new Iraqi Constitution, the Parliament has passed no law to protect unions or workers trying to organize them. But then public sector unions are also illegal in North Carolina and many other states. Upon taking office after their election in 2006, the Republican governors of Missouri and Indiana immediately suspended all collective bargaining agreements their states had negotiated with state employees and declared the end of their collective bargaining rights. When Congress and the Bush Administration formed the Department of Homeland Security in 2002, they stripped collective bargaining rights from all DHS workers, even those who'd had those rights in their former agencies, declaring that union protections ran counter to national security. After more than five years of determined opposition and court challenges, the National Treasury Employees Union, which represents 22,000 of these workers, recently forced the DHS to give up its union-busting power and agree to respect collective bargaining and civil service protections for all its workers.

The Bush Administration has made it clear that it expects the Iraqi Parliament to pass a hydrocarbon law that opens Iraq's oil reserves to US corporate exploitation, in addition to a law to distribute oil revenues among regions. Congress has made the hydrocarbon law a "benchmark" in all its attempts to tie continued funding of the war to "political progress" in Iraq. But it requires no such benchmark for women's rights (the Iraqi Constitution imposes Islamic law in all family matters) or, of course, for labor rights. US policy in Iraq reflects the same drive toward privatization and

increasing corporate power that workers face here in the dismantling of our public sector and its services.

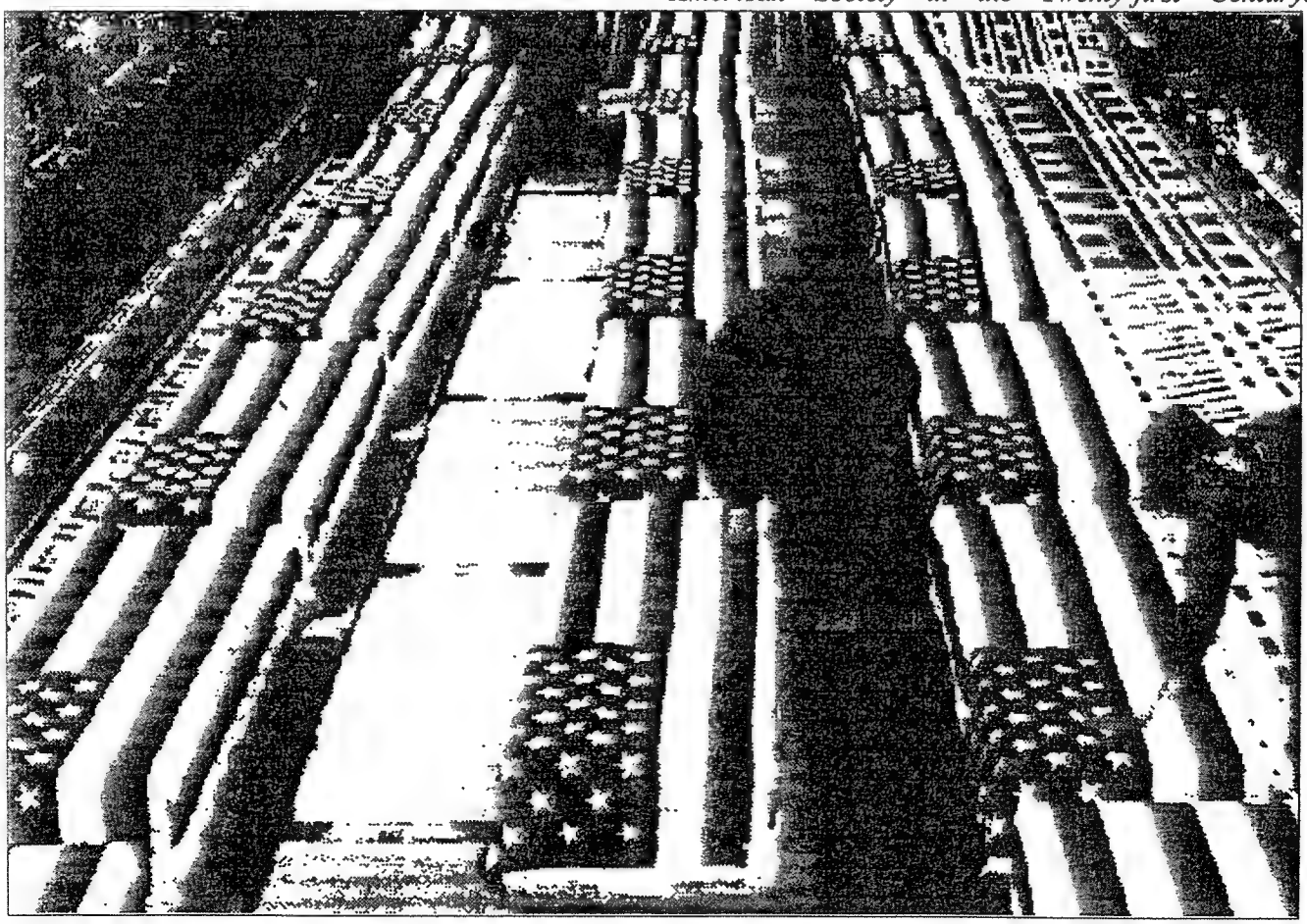
Emphasizing such parallels -- and the fact that the best way to show solidarity with US soldiers is to bring them home -- a movement to end the war has been growing in American unions. The state federations of labor in Connecticut, Maryland/DC, South Carolina, Vermont and Wisconsin have joined US Labor Against the War (USLAW; uslaboragainstwar.org), this country's first broadly based antiwar organization among workers and their unions (full disclosure: I am on its national steering committee). A coalition of more than 150 union locals, central labor councils, state federations and other labor organizations, US LA W coordinates its activities with Military Families Speak Out, Iraq Veterans Against the War and other veterans' organizations that support the troops with calls for their immediate return. The AFL-CIO, for its part, has called for the rapid withdrawal of all US forces from Iraq. And the ILWU Longshore Caucus is continuing its tradition of political interruptions of work with a call to shut all West Coast ports on May 1 to protest the war, a work stoppage it hopes will spread to other industries.

Labor opposition to the war stems in part from the war's economic cost, counted not just in dollars but in what else that money could buy. So far the war has cost more than $522 billion (not counting interest payments on the borrowing that has paid the bills and long-term costs for veterans' care). Taxpayers in Louisiana alone have paid about $4 billion, which could have created more than 47,000 units of affordable housing there, and the jobs that go with their construction. (The National Priorities Project has a thorough accounting on its website, nationalpriorities.org, of the real costs of the war to states and communities across the country. See the chart in this issue for a visual representation of these trade-offs).

The movement that working people and their unions have organized supports the troops with calls for their immediate return with full veterans' benefits. It seeks the redirection of funds to serve human needs. And it expresses solidarity with Iraqi workers and their labor movement. Should a new Democratic Administration continue the Iraq occupation while offering to satisfy some of labor's interests as part of its domestic agenda, sustaining this movement will require additional analysis and new resolve.

## About Michael Zweig

Michael Zweig, a professor of economics and director of the Center for Study of Working Class Life at the State University of New York, Stony Brook, is the executive producer of the DVD *Meeting Face to Face: the Iraq-U.S. Labor Solidarity Tour.* His most recent book is *What's Class Gotta Do With It?: American Society in the Twenty-first Century.*



# One-Sided Class Warfare in the USA

An Outsiders' View of the One-Sided Class Warfare in the USA
By Russell Mokhiber and Robert Weissma, 29 Jul 1999

"While in theory U.S. law provides for workers to have freedom of association, the right to join trade unions and participate in coltective bargaining is in practice denied to large segments of the American workforce in both the public and the private sectors."

That is the central conclusion of a new report issued by the Brussels-based International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)

<hUg:/ /www.icftu.ora/enalish/els/escl99wtousa.html>.

Sometimes it takes an outsider to put matters in perspective. Those living in a society may become dulled to its everyday injustices; or key elements of society may be hidden from the view of many; or people may come to view their culture as the natural state of things, rather than the particular result of a certain social arrangement.

It was this outsider's point of view that enabled Alexis de Tocqueville to write one of the still-great political sociological critiques of the United States, *Democracy in America.*

And this same perspective enables the ICFTU researchers to plainly, directly and concisely convey the widespread sabotage of worker rights in the United States.

Here's what the report details with piercing clarity:

* "Employers receive legal protection for extensive interference in the decision of workers as to whether or hot they wish to have union representation. This includes active campaigning by employers among employees against union representation as well as participating in campaigns to eliminate union representation."

* "Penalties for breaking the law are so limited and ineffective that there is a high level of corporate lawlessness with respect to labor law. At least one in 10 union supporters campaigning to form a union is illegally fired."

* Employers engage in widespread harassment and intimidation against union supporters. Often the consultants, detectives and security firms used to intimidate workers engage in "surveillance of union activists in order to discredit them. In some cases, court, medical and credit records of union activists are obtained and the family lives of activists are studied for possible weaknesses."

* Many government workers, the report notes, are denied the right to strike or bargain collectively over hours, wages and other critical issues. Nearly half of public workers suffer from full or partial denial of collective bargaining rights.

Union supporters who suffer from illegal firings, harassment, surveillance or improper employer electioneering do not have adequate remedies at the National Labor Relations Board. NLRB procedures, ICFTU correctly states," do not provide workers with effective redress in the face of abuses by employers." NLRB delays and inability to award damages more than job reinstatement and lost wages (minus earnings during the period between illegal dismissal and NLRB order) are so severe that many wronged union supporters simply do not bother filing a case with the NLRB.

Employers also routinely eviscerate the rights of those workers who are unionized:

* "The law gives employers the 'free play of economic forces.' If employers cannot get what they want through collective bargaining, they can unilaterally impose their terms, lock out their employees, and transfer work to another location, or even to another legal entity." The ICFTU reports refers to Crown Central Petroleum's lockout of 250 Texas workers as an example.

* An increasing number of employers have deliberately provoked strikes to get rid of trade unions.

* "Unacceptable demands are made of workers and are often accompanied by arrangements for the recruiting and training of strike-breakers."

* Strike-breakers are also used to prevent unions from ever reaching a first contract.

* And, in one of the great travesties of the U.S. legal system, while the law does prohibit the firing of workers for exercising collective bargaining rights, at the same time it permits employers to lock out and "permanently replace" those workers. .

The ICFTU report also criticizes the United States for permitting widespread use of child labor, especially in the agricultural industry and among migrant workers; and, in a growing number of cases, permitting prisoners to be compelled to work for pay (for rates as low as 23 cents a day).

"A series of far-reaching measures need to be taken in order to establish genuine respect for core labor standards within the United States, particularly with regard to trade union rights," the ICFTU report modestly concludes.

Because the report was prepared as a submission to the World Trade Organization, it emphasizes the importance of the United States ratifying International Labor Organization conventions on core worker rights.

But something much more fundamental is needed before the systematic assault on U.S. worker rights is ended. Comprehensive labor law reform is imperative; even more important is an upsurge in labor organization and militancy, with workers forcing employers to recognize their rights irrespective of legal enforcement.

The awesome challenge, of course, is how to generate that militancy and organizing burst when U.S. corporations are ruthless enough to fire one in ten union supporters.

(c) Russell Mokhiber and Robert Weissman

Russell Mokhiber is editor of the Washington, D.C. - based Corporate Crime Reporter. Robert Weissman is editor of the Washington, D.C. - based Multinational Monitor. They are co-authors of Corporate Predators: The Hunt for MegaProfits and the Attack on Democracy (Common Courage Press, 1999, http://www.corporatepredators.org.)

## Re: VIOLENT REVOLUTION IS A UNIVERSAL LAW

Committee for a Revolutionary Communist Party in Australia (CRCPA)

26 Apr 1996

The central task and highest form of revolution in ALL countries is the seizure of power by armed force.

When Mao and the Chinese Communist Party put People's War into practice in China they did so in an oppressed country and so the road to revolution was that of protracted people's war based in the countryside and encircling cities. In the oppressed countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America and Oceania the possibility exists of going over to armed struggle from early on.

Mao also pointed out that applying the theory of People's War to the concrete conditions of an imperialist country will NOT be the same.

Marxism has always taught, and Mao was extremely insistent, that it is fundamental to the process of waging revolution that the universal truth of the proletarian ideology must be applied to the concrete reality of each country's revolution.

Look closely at the experience of the Bolshevik revolution and see (contrary to revisionist mythology) that the October Revolution was not over in ten days.

Following the October insurrection, the Soviet state had to wage another three and a half years of revolutionary war before it smashed both domestic counter-revolution and armed imperialist intervention. The Bolsheviks' experience confirms the universal validity of Maoist People's War.

People's War in Australia will be more directly akin to the October Road: a (typically long) period of political preparation where the Communist Party will be striving to mobilise the masses and develop a revolutionary movement capable, when the necessary pre-conditions emerge, of urban-based insurrection going over to civil war against the reactionary state power and in defence of proletarian rule.

Until the time arrives for seizing power, the central task for the Communist Party of Australia (and the struggle now to reconstitute the Party) is to concentrate on the painstaking task of accumulating revolutionary strength.

People's War is the revolutionary war of the masses and can only be carried out by mobilising the masses and relying upon. The Communist Party might lead, but it is the masses who make history.

The all-round political work of the revolutionary Communist Party; the revolutionary struggles in Australia and throughout the world; and the crisis and conflicts within the Australian imperialist system and between the imperialist powers --all these combine to prepare the ground for the revolutionary war of the masses to seize power in Australia.

People's War in Australia CAN be successful because it relies not upon a conspiracy of Communist Party activists, but upon the class-conscious proletariat and masses led by the Party. People's War relies not upon the gradual accumulation of socialist influence, but upon a revolutionary upsurge of the people.

The initial insurrectionary stage of People's War in Australia must NOT commence until that turning point in the growing revolution is reached where the militant struggle of the class-conscious minority is at its height, and when the vacillations in the ranks of the enemy and in the ranks of the middle-class, half-hearted friends of the revolution are at their highest.

Serious crisis in society, and mass upheaval and rebellion (the necessary objective conditions for People's war in Australia) may erupt, almost without warning and seemingly out of nowhere.

There is urgent work to do in these relatively peaceful times to get into position to launch the People's War in Australia. Genuine revolutionary communists seize on the favourable prospects for revolution that emerge in Australia and the world in order to build the vanguard communist organisation and influence that can take things from resistance, to rebellion, to revolution.

Preparing for People's War in Australia requires the carrying out of three inter-connected tasks:
1. reconstituting the Communist Party of Australia on the basis of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism;
2. creating revolutionary public opinion (connecting our agitational and propaganda work to what must be done -- revolutionary warfare to overthrow the system;
3. leading the people to militantly confront the system.
A well disciplined Communist Party armed with the theory of Marxism-Leninism, using the method of self-criticism and linked with the masses of the people; an army under the leadership of such a Party; a united front of all revolutionary classes and all revolutionary groups under the leadership of such a Party -- these are the three main weapons with which the class-conscious workers and the oppressed and revolutionary masses in Australia can overthrow the reactionary state power.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
contact the Committee for a Revolutionary Communist Party in Australia (CRCPA)
by writing to:

BOXHOLDER
GPO BOX 474D
MELBOURNE VIC 3001
AUSTRALIA

## Fred Hampton: The Canadian Connection

*BASICS ONLINE, Toronto, Canada*
*By Norman (Otis)-Richmond*
Friday, December 04, 2009

Shortly before his assassination Fred Hampton prophetically pointed out, "I believe I'm going to die doing the things I was born to do. I believe I'm going to die high off the people. I believe I'm going to die a revolutionary in the international revolutionary proletarian struggle."

December 4th 2009 marks the 40th Anniversary of the assassinations of Fred Hampton; the Chairman of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party and Mark Clark of the Peoria Ill. Chapter.

Unfortunately, Hampton's predication came true.

The story of the murders of Hampton and Clark can be found in a new volume "The Assassination of Fred Hampton: How the FBI and the Chicago Police Murdered a Black Panther", by Jeffrey Haas. This work is published by Lawrence Hill Books and is available at A Different Book List, Knowledge and your better book stores.

Hampton had made one of his last speeches in Regina, Sask. only a week earlier. This was Hampton only visit outside the United States. He came to the University of Regina and spoke to students and the labour movement. Ironically, El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz (Malcolm X) made only one visit to Canada. He did an interview with the CBC and visited the home of Austin and Betty Clarke on Asquith Street.

Hampton said he came to Canada to garner support for Chairman Bobby Seale. He also was quoted in an interview saying, "I think also that we'll see a lot more repression here in Canada. I think that with a lot more people waking up, there'll be more repression -- of Indians and of all progressive forces in Canada."

This quote is from the Prairie Fire, Regina, Sask., a progressive Regina weekly newspaper that was printed from 1969 until 1971. The Prairie Fire devoted a great deal of ink to Hampton. The Nov. 25-Dec. 2, 1969 issue ran an editorial about how Hampton and two other BPP members were

harassed by Canadian Immigration officials, discussed in the House of Commons and severely attacked by the Leader Post, a Regina daily on its editorial page. In the same issue of the Prairie Fire an article, "Panthers Outline Program" an exclusive was granted to the publication.

DON'T MOURN – ORGANIZE!, a quote from the great Joe Hill a leader of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), also known as the Wobblies) jumped out at you from the pages of Prairie Fire. The editorial ended with this quote, "Chairman Fred Hampton's name now joins the list of the many people who have died in fighting for the rights of their people."

The last article, "In Memory Of Fred Hampton" discussed a memorial torchlight parade for Hampton. The story ended with a powerful quote from Labour, "George Smith, president of the Regina Labour Council, expressed his solidarity with the Panthers, especially their efforts to put socialism into practice with hot breakfast programs and free medical clinics."

"He said many people in Canada and U.S. are left to die slow deaths by malnutrition and poverty, and that these deaths are just as much the result of our social system as deaths by gunfire which Blacks and Indians meet every day."

"Many more will die before the fight is won, but the struggle for a more progressive social system will continue."

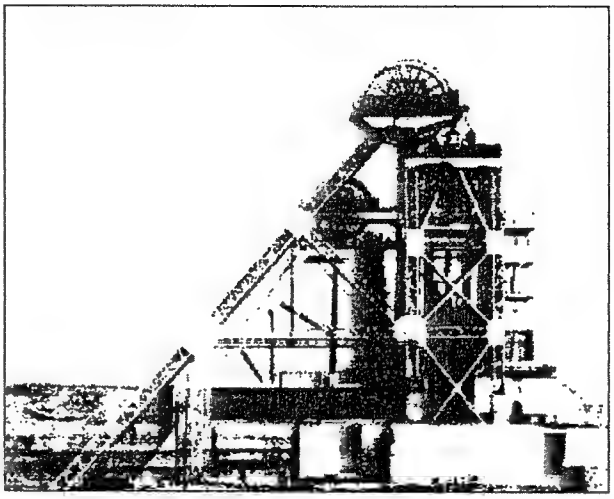
Ten years ago the African Liberation Month Coalition and CKLN-FM 88.1 FM organized a screening of the 1971 film "The Murder of Fred Hampton" at the Bloor Cinema. The inspiration came from Barry Lipton who made a tape of Hampton's last speech available to me. The tape was played on CKLN.

Lipton was one of the organizers of the Sask. event. Carm, Paul and their father Corrado made the Bloor Cinema available to us for more than a reasonable price which solved the venue question. Liam Lacey an old friend of mine did a half a page article on the film in the Globe and Mail. This did nothing by help us fill the place. Njeri supplied the film and we were in business.

It was Hampton who put forth the concept of the Rainbow Coalition first. The concept was later picked up and popularized by Jesse Jackson. Akua Njeri pointed out in her book, "My Life With The Black Panther Party," "Fred Hampton was the originator of the concept of the Rainbow Coalition. He was the first person to come up with that concept in 1969. That was an effort to educate and politicize other poor and oppressed people throughout this world. He worked with and attempted to politicize the young patriots organization, which was a group of Appalachian whites in the near north area of Chicago, politicizing them and organizing them to recognize the leadership of the black revolution, the vanguard party, the Black Panther Party, and to work in their communities against this huge monster we had to deal with, which is racism."

Hampton continues to inspire singers, players of instruments and hip hop artists. Ernest Dawkins recorded "A Black Opera" dedicated to Chairman Fred Hampton live in Paris on January 13, 2006. The CD was written as a fig leaf of healing Akua Njeri, Fred Hampton, Jr., the family, friends and comrades of Chairman Fred Hampton. Njeri and Hampton Jr. were honoured guests at the Sons d'hiver festival when this piece was recorded. Hampton is sampled heavy by dead prez on their debut CD, "Let's Get Free." M1 and stick man are currently working with Fred Hampton Jr.

Hampton once opined, "If you're afraid of socialism you are afraid of yourself". The vision of Hampton and Clark and the progressive forces around the world are alive and well in Latin America.❑



# Canadian Terror:

## A Review of a New Radio Documentary on the Canadian Mining Industry

*by Bryan Doherty*
*Basics Issue* #13 *(Apr/May 2009)*

You want to know the names of those "waging global terror?" The new audio documentary, *Path of Destruction: Canadian Mining Companies Around the World*, from Asad Ismi and Kristen Schwartz, shows us we can start a list with the names of mining companies listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange. Canadian mining's path of destruction isn't limited to Canada. As these companies spread throughout the world, they apply the tried-and-true practices they developed in this country to be the top players in a global money game that thieves, pollutes, terrorizes and kills.

With perfect clarity, Ismi and Schwartz demonstrate how Canadian mining capital brings misery and devastation with it wherever it goes. In Sudbury, Ontario, the Canadian mining industry has worked hand-in-hand with the government and courts to steal the land from its indigenous people. In the documentary we hear from Chief Petahtegoose of the Whitefish lake First Nation, not only about the theft of their land, but how those mines have poisoned the water in the area, polluted the air and contaminated the soil. The Chief's own words link this devastation to the earlier devastation inflicted on his people by diseases such as smallpox spread by early European settlers. The genocide of indigenous people, started by the settling of this country, continues with the theft and destruction of their land.

Sudbury's not the only place with minerals though. And when Canadian mining went looking for more earth to tear up and lives to ruin, they brought with them the support of their government and years of brutal know-how. Following the destructive path of Canadian mining in the Ismi and Schwartz documentary is to bear witness to a rampage where nothing stands in the way of profit.

When Canadian mining expanded internationally and met with resistance, it proved itself capable of sinking to almost unbelievable depths. These businessmen went about the business of instigating and fuelling brutal conflict and warfare in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Guatemala, among others. Massacre, forced displacement, torture, assassination, and intimidation became the 'business model' of Canadian mining companies' (such as Inco and Barrick Gold) expansion to the global south.

When European and American-backed paramilitaries or armies weren't available to do their dirty work, mining relied on the support of courts and politicians to clear the way for them. The Canadian government has worked diligently on their mining friends' behalf. Through the Canadian courts at home and its embassies abroad, the mining industry's interests have been well protected, to the detriment of those who work the mines or live anywhere near them. Environmental and labour protections are scrapped or ignored, leaving the companies free to pillage the land and destroy the health of their workers. Corporate taxes are erased to the degree that a Manitoba-based mining company recently paid taxes to the Canadian government for the first time in 75 years.

Path of Destruction illustrates that savage crimes against humanity and environmental devastation are not the exception, but the rule, when the Canadian mining industry is concerned. Ismi and Schwartz's spectacular documentary not only demonstrate the abhorrent crimes of the mining industry but also the ways in which their imperialist and genocidal crimes can be successfully challenged. In Canada, Native communities are at the forefront of resistance to murder and theft perpetrated by Canadian mining capital. Likewise, successful popular movements have led resistance to mining's incursions allover the south, resulting in progressive defeats of capital's aims in favour of the well-being and wealth of workers and indigenous peoples. The closing words of Edward Gudoy are a healthy prescription for the cancer spread by Canadian mining: "At the end of the day, it's about workers taking control of the resources -including the natural resources -- including the economy of the country -- this is the bottom line. In the north and south."❑

**Tuesday, July 17, 2007**

## Harper in Colombia: Free Trade Coming Ahead of Human Rights

The Para-Political scandal in Colombia is one good reason why Canada should not have a free trade accord with Colombia.

The para-political scandal is the current outrage engulfing Colombian politics. In February, the foreign minister was forced to resign after the arrest of her brother, a senator in Colombia's congress, due to their ties to one of the heads of a paramilitary group. In April, Senator Gustavo Petro, of Polo Democratico Alternativo, the new alternative political party in Colombia, exposed the web of relationships between the death squads and members of the President's party as well senators from different parties, including liberal members of congress.

In the early 1980's, the bigger land-owners of Colombia formed the "United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia" (AUC), a paramilitary organization, in response to the local farmers who had been organizing and protecting themselves from the excessive exploitation and greed of those very huge land-owners. Using the AUC, the big landowners have seized more than 26,000 square miles from local farmers, killing tens of thousands in the process and displacing thousands more. These paramilitary thugs of the AUC have murdered community and union organizers as well as any villagers who have resisted. This has meant that after the Sudan, Colombia has the second highest number of internal refugees.

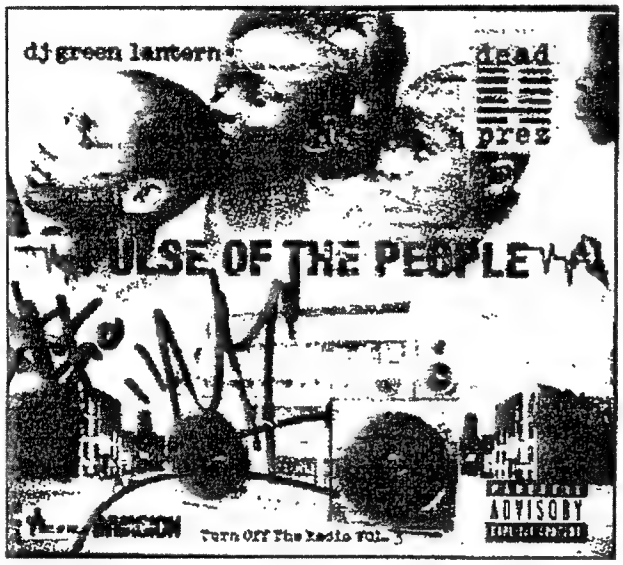
The scandal is the first fully visible example of the complex but 'legitimized' relations between the Colombian state -- its institutions as well as its political parties -- and the right wing paramilitary death squads that have been internally attacking the population. The AUC and its sister organizations have received the benediction and protection of important politicos in Colombia. For example, Senator Petro revealed that President Uribe, as governor of the Antioquia State, held meetings with top-ranking paramilitary leaders on a nightly basis in his gubernatorial compound, handing over lists of suspected organizers. The para-politico scandal has also shown how relentless multi-national corporations are in acquiring their profits. For example, Del Monte and Chiquita have been caught buying paramilitary 'protection', hiring death squads to brutally suppress its workers. Furthermore, last year in 2006, the year of Uribe's reelection, 77 union organizers have been 'disappeared' and all are presumed to be assassinated.

Why does Canada do nothing while Colombian blood drenches Colombian soil? Is it perhaps because Canadian companies are profiting from this blood? Imperial Oil through its multi-national parent company, ExxonMobil, sells gas to Canada and Colombia, as well as owning gas interests in both countries. Various Canadian banks do business in Colombia. As well, mining companies such as Cerejon, exports coal from Colombia for use in Eastern Canadian power plants. Canadian food importing businesses bring in cheap in-demand, out-of-season or tropical fruits, vegetables and other staples, such as bananas, papayas and coffee. All these Canadian multinationals use Colombian natural resources and labour-power for their benefit.

Additionally, although US Democrats had pushed for a free trade deal with Colombia and helped the Colombian state acquire funding for the paramilitaries, it now looks like the Democrats are withdrawing their support for this corrupt regime, as they may now block the passage of the free trade accord between the US and Colombia. For the workers of Colombia, the failure of the free trade accord means that they will not face more cuts to whatever current meager social programs are in existence.

However, on June 7, it was announced that Canada is seeking to firm up a free trade agreement with Colombia because of the impending loss of the US and Colombian free trade accord. Also with Prime Minister Harper's jaunt to the US' closest allies of the South America -- Colombia, Peru and Brazil (with a possible stop-over in Haiti, a country that is still a horrible skeleton in the Canadian closet), our concern is that President Uribe's corruption is going to be re-enforced with Canadian resources: money, trade and military. Therefore, we need to decide if we will allow Canada to further profit off of the pain of Colombian workers. A free trade agreement between Canada and Colombia will not improve Colombian lives; it will only increase Colombia's painful exploitation and weaken Canadian labour.❑

# u.net interviews Dead Prez on *Pulse of the People*




27 August 2009

*Dead Prez has been crafting revolutionary but gangsta hip-hop since the late 1990s. Having previously released two major label albums, two volumes of their independent Turn off the Radio series and two solo albums, Dead Prez's way of life brand has become an international symbol of substance in hip hop that connects hardcore hip hop heads with the growing movement for liberation, social justice and grassroots empowerment.*

*u.net interviewed Sticman and M-1, the revolutionary duo who comprise Dead Prez, who .have recently combined forces with The Evil Genius OJ Green Lantern for their new mixtape, Pulse of The People which is the third installment of their critically acclaimed independent series Turn off the Radio Vol. 3.*

**u.net:** What was the concept behind the new mixtape, Pulse of People?

**Stic:** We are expressing what's going on in the hearts and minds of the people, tapping into the "pulse" reporting live from the heart of things.

**M1:** P.O.P. is a summation of the general feelings and morale of our worldwide community. It's a continuation of the TURN OFF THE RADIO brand which functions as a way for Dead Prez to address the broad masses who may be confronting whatever the system may have put in their faces at any particular time. It's a snapshot of the people right now.

**u.net:** How the collaboration with OJ Green Lantern came about?

**Stic:** We worked with him on his mixtapes b4-including the Nas Nigga Mixtape etc, we were all on Rock the Bells Tour 2008 2gether and we said now is the right time and jumped in lab for 4days and knocked it out.

**M1:** DP'Z linked back up with Green Lantern as we were touring together last year. He was DJing for Nas and during our backstage breaks we would vibe on music and such. As a Sought after producer in today's Hip Hop world, he has his ear to the streets as well as a highly regarded relationship with mainstream bourgeoisie capitalist radio. We thought it would be great to explore a new sound as well as get a few hot verses off our chest.

**u.net:** Having the chance to travel and to get feedback from the audience, what do you think the pulse of the people is in 2009?

**Stic:** Striving to thrive in spite of a recession, going green, entrepreneurship, community investments, international awareness, healthy living...and being fed up with the amerikkkan way.

**M1:** People are looking for a common denominator out here today. As the new imperialist world leadership emerges, many of us are experiencing the same problems. We have recently been to Greece, Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Russia,' Germany and even in the Gaza Strip. And the world is receiving the album unanimously. Hip Hop'is still an effective tool if used by the right warriors.

**u.net:** Listening to the songs on Pulse of The People seem your lyrics have a broader appeal then the ones in previous albums and mixtapes...

**Stic:** Appeal is relative 2 the listener... we just spit and whoever relates, relates... as we grow in consciousness our music lyrics and techniques will continue to reflect that.

**M1:** When writing this project, I definitively thought with a broader pen stroke and I enjoyed being able to do more grittier work over such banging tracks. It was a much welcomed break from a very concept-driven, Information Age album we have been working on for over a year. We wanted to speak directly to the demographic we usually miss -the young, working class African community.

**u.net:** "Although Obama is the president, we're still enslaved," what will, if anything is going to, change with Obama as president of the U.S.?

**Stic:** Obama represents the same system of amerikkkan imperialism but he's just more thought eloquent and courteous about it. We say be your own stimulus plan and get

out and make revolutionary change where u see its needed including personal transformations, as well as social activism.

**M1:** The U.S. Gov't is up its same old tricks. We understand neo-colonialism and so does most .of the world. It's important to separate our criticism of imperialism from some personal attacks against the man. The songs speak for themselves however the politics of liberation is more than just music. The election of the African American president of the U.S. has empowered the petty bourgeois agenda that would come to the rescue of the very same system that has been beating us down for the last decade.

**u.net:** "Not to disrespect their legacy but that's the real OGs," how relevant is the legacy of black freedom fighters in today's Black America? "Real Soldiers don't die, we multiply," and what about the state of the Black Liberation Movement?

**Stic:** Our movement was attacked by the U.S. gov't and many of our freedom fighters were killed, exiled, became substance abusers or wrongly incarcerated. Their leadership still helps us stay connected to the struggle and create new ways to find solutions

**M1:** Today it's difficult to find evidence of the world changing Black Revolution of not so long ago. The examples of courageous, revolutionary leadership and progressive organizations is critical to the development of young soldiers and future leaders. Weakened by counterintelligence but not dead, our movement has nothing to lose but our chains. I expect the next phase to expose those posturing in positions of power and see real power transferred into the hands of our movement.

**u.net:** Who inspired your music, lyrics and vision? What is for y'all the role of revolutionary culture?

**Stic:** We were largely inspired by our active participation in the Uhuru Movement, and just coming up in the hood looking to make a difference in our families and people's lives.

**M1:** Last Poets, Gill Scott Heron, Curtis Mayfield, Jimi Hendrix, Fela Kuti, Bob Marley, Malcolm X, Huey Newton, George Jackson, Public Enemy, Bad Brains, Omali Yeshitela, Kwame Nkrumah, Marcus Garvey, Tupac, Fred Hampton Sr., The Battle of Algiers (Movie), Fred Hampton & Mark Clark (BPP). The role of Revolutionary Culture is to help raise the political maturity of the people.

**u.net:** Listening to your songs, lyrics and words there's a questiol;l'which come to my mind: What's your definition of freedom?

**Stic:** Freedom has many aspects but ultimately it can be summed up as power.

**M1:** Freedom is achieved by the total transfer of power from the ruling class imperialism to the working class masses around the world. Therefore positioning us to carve out a new future for the world demanding that resources of the world be shared by all in fairness and not exploitation.

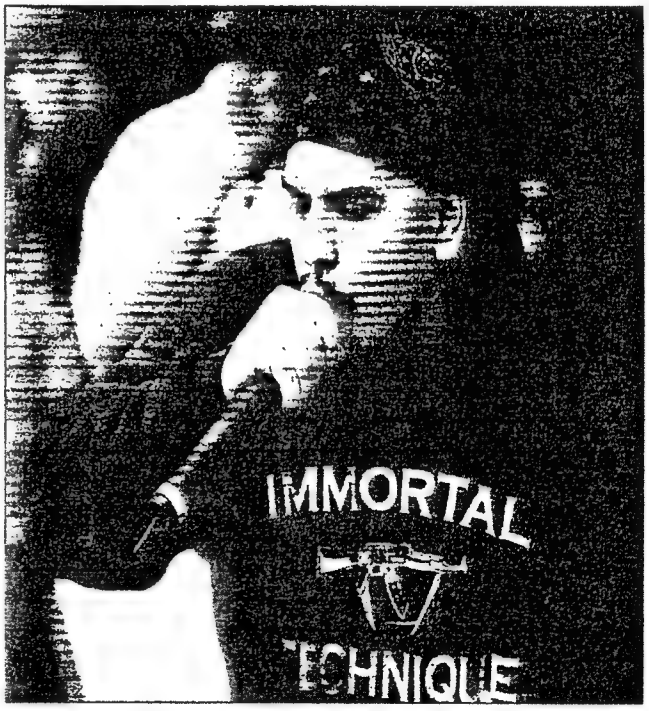
**u.net:** You've worked on DPz albums, on solo projects, on mags and books and you're very active in political events and demos... you appear a very fluid but effective posse. Do you want to break it down on it?

**M1:** DP'z relationship is not defined by a stagnant moment in time. As a matter of fact, our relationship depends on our ability to grow. We have learned from the ebst of the OGz from the Movement to the Music Industry. The goal is Liberation, Self-Determination. It's not a glamorous road but we're attempting to popularize our movement through Revolutionary Culture. I'm inspired by the work my comrade Stic does. We feed off each other's personal struggles and triumphs. We witnessed the capitalist business tactics of the unscrupulous entertainment industry, yet understand that an independent operation is one that exercise the most power.

**u.net:** When will your next album be out? What we can expect from DPz in the next future?

**Stic:** Information Age is on the way in divine time.

**M1:** Information Age is on the way as well as many upcoming projects from our musical family. Information Age is a project that will be very unique to DP'z catalog. We have been soaking up life and returning with new truths. The sound can only be described as "next". It's uptempo and informative. Look our for it near the end of 2009, as we have 2010 to commemorate a decade of RBG.❑




## Rock The Bells National Tour & NEW MUSIC!

**by Immortal Technique**

I promised new music and here it is... This is one of the songs that is availabre on the new GIJOE Mixtape on my page, it is one of a few exclusives I have that you can only find on that tape. A sneak peek, but this isn't the snippet version. It's the whole song.

Military Minds feat. Buckshot & Smiff N Wessun. (produced by King Solomon)

Throughout the years these brothers from Bootcamp kept Hardcore Hip Hop at the forefront of the game. We united to create this machine gun style representation what hardcore underground really is. Some of the most professional people I have ever worked with. The honor was mine.

It has been almost 3 and half years since I dropped a record, (all those mixtapes on the Internet besides Vol.1 & Vol.2 are fake compilations, don't pay for them, just burn them off the net.) And yet the tracks I did with **Green Lantern,** random mixtape appearances and heavy tour schedules sometimes with over **150 shows** in a year have kept my name and the message I carry as relevant if not more, than when our people's revolution evolved into this form. Instead the call for me to release more music has grown deafening, the global power of Hip Hop is beginning to slip out of the hands of its Imperial Corporate dominance back into the hands of the pockets of resistance. The uncompromising organic, street sound that gave rise to this billion dollar business that has been exploited for the benefit of everyone with the originators, creators and producers of it getting nothing but scraps. To me I find it almost painfully humorous that this is a parallel example of what the people in developing worlds suffer with the exploitation of their natural resources. I have done years of work raising money for causes that I support in this country in **Palestine, in South America** and soon in other places such as Afghanistan, Mexico, Colombia, and Puerto Rico to begin with... I just hope the small effort I make can inspire others with more resources than me to take up the fight. This coupled with a tour schedule that keeps me on the road has prevented me from completing the much anticipated new album.

Originally I was going to simply release Revolutionary Vol.3 as the next installment. But I stumbled upon a disturbing realization while climbing towards success. The Underground where I was completely free and ran my operations with discipline and vigor, unrestricted and enthusiastically towards a purpose, that was leading me to grow larger than it could contain. It was leading me towards success beyond the regular Hip Hop crowds, into the ghettos of other countries, and the colleges of this nation, beyond just the small venues that only held 100 people. The next step of an artists **supposed evolution** was towards a world that was being dominated by distributors, unscrupulous lawyers, the opportunist parasites, co-opt marketing, payola, date rape publishing deals, and 20 year contracts. It was literally the transition from ultimate freedom when songs are written without taking into account what's gonna be able to crossover, and collaborations are made based on who you respect and work well with as opposed to slavery where the label picks your songs and throws you together with who they will give clearance for. Then although you are given a loan by the label the expenses are always trumped up and you end up either never making money or barely scraping by and living off your shows and commercial endorsements. There is no consideration for some of liberties that the company take with you and you become less of yourself and more of someone else's dimensional portrayal of your people. Some of these high level execs are really scorned ambiguously heterosexual lovers who throw tantrums like children with each other and treat the artists on their roster like pets and trophies to prance around in public. I decided that while I would have to have a distributor and some marketing that I would not be some porcelain doll in the collection of a grown up baby with no connection to the culture that I have worked so hard to preserve and to present to my brothers and sisters.

Hence the idea of **The Middle Passage** was born because this land was not stolen in a day. Nor did anyone in Africa fall asleep and wake up a slave. It was a long arduous, painful process. But expressing all this didn't come cheap. I have poured my ideas, passion, misery, struggle, triumph, failures, and vision of the future into the project. But it was so much work, that it soon became apparent that it was going to be over 30 songs. I began to put together so many original songs and I talked to Green Lantern about possibly giving me some more beats and we decided that if we did something together people would be excited about it. However it's not something I can really genuinely call a mixtape anymore, all the beats are originals (most of them from Southpaw and other producers) and so are the song concepts and the lyrics, there is nothing contrived about what we have constructed. It is a project now, a complete one that will either be release with The Middle Passage or before it just so we are both on the same page people.

I take this moment when I am releasing our schedule for the summer at the **Rock The Bells** Tour and other dates around it to thank you all and also to apologize. I know this movement is what it is because of the soldiers and supporters we have. The people who are independent thinkers and whose political opinion and motivation to understand this world better and to try and find solutions to the problem instead of Just making money milking it, deserve most of the credit. These people are not just "Angry niggaz from the hood," or leftist white kids from college, or golden era Hip Hop lovers, cultural purists or disgruntled US Military personnel, these aren't just individuals who "hate cops" or are mad at the system. These are people who are students of history, who have paid dues in their city and in the prison industrial complex, kids who are the new generation that will one day seek to the right to have a say in their own country. These are people who do not blindly follow a religion or political party. They want to and are beginning to understand the system in its inner workings in order to find a method of changing their lives and putting as much truth that is purposefully kept from us out there.

I wish that I was that Revolutionary when I was young, I wish I had not done so many reckless things as a child but I am reminded that unless I understood that path and ended up locked up and ending up seeing all these crazy things while running the streets that I might not be here in this capacity. I'm from **Harlem, NYC** and I was born in **Peru,** a country that redefines the word poverty for the useless celebrity gossip Hip Hop crowd. But that doesn't make me real or tough, being from the hood doesn't necessarily make you hardcore you fuckin' marketing scheme managing cowards. It just means your economic situation is fucked up or that you remain in the struggle for a reason. Neither the hood nor being incarcerated made me a man, I had to be a man before I went through all that in order to succeed and emerge not only still a man in every aspect of my being, but spiritually ascend into a greater responsibility and a mission that I will not accept defeat in, in this life or the next. I never needed anyone's stamp of approval to make the type of

music I make and I know what I've been through in life doesn't need a special on MTV or my video on 106 and park to validate. Being in the underground for so long didn't make me bitter or pissed at the game, it made me not want to controlled by it even more so. It wasn't like I couldn't have signed a deal, I turned those down, I chose NOT to go that route, not because I shun the public light but because it would not have allowed me to make the same type of music. And with this music, to buy my farm in Latin America, to support my family, my soldiers and to make a good living for myself speaking truth instead of selling people industry fairytales and watered down pop rap, (which I don't mind in the, club because everything has it's place after all ladies and gentlemen).

I had a lot of sponsors turn their back on me because of the politics of what I do. But my work speaks for itself... My past success and failure have both coupled to create the knowledge necessary to complete my mission with more efficiency. That said I have always put my work before anything and it sometimes was difficult when you become so involved in a project that people start thinking you're too good to do a 16 bar verse for them, or that you can't do a show or put aside your schedule for theirs. It's never something personal. I have a mountain of responsibility that goes far beyond Hip Hop Music to concern myself with. But it's not an excuse, It's just the reality that sacrifice is a part of this world and I have sacrificed many things, some I look back on and wish could have happened differently but I still will not give up no matter what sort of pressure is put on the movement. I make this promise though that from now on I will simply carry more, and when I need help I will never be too proud to ask for it from the people who like me serve a greater purpose in this Global Revolution. The building of a

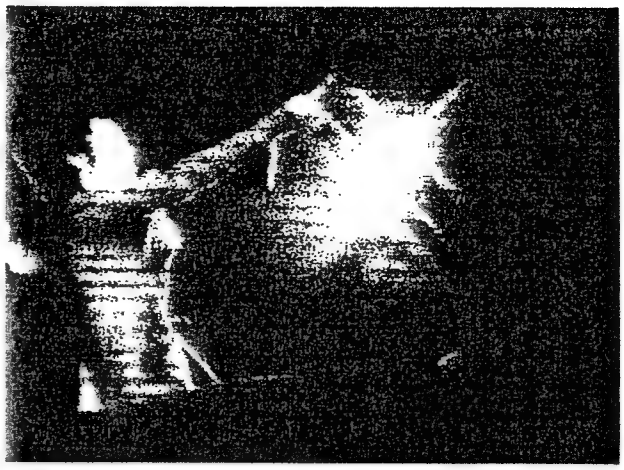
Nation within a Nation is coming, and I honestly don't know if I will be on these type of large tours anymore but this **Summer of 2007,** it is of course a great venue to see so many thousands of people but my set is early during the day, and I only have about a half hour to rock, but I promise what little time I have, I will make my stand worthy of remembrance.

I present to you. Immortal Technique Rock The Bells & Other dates... 2007 I'm bringing my brother **DJ GIJOE** whose mixtape I have provided a link for on my page the mixtape is FIRE !!!

Akir's video is on my page please support that. And finally I am bringing the caged animal Diabolic (first national tour) with me as well as **Southpaw** on the road to make moves before we finish up the last few songs that remain on the new records. We'll have shirts and CD's all day so please come by and politick with us at the short performance big events and come see the full show at the smaller ones if you can.❑

**Guerrilla Queens**

are out to infiltrate hip hop & reggae with Revolutionary But Gangsta lyrics that seek to elevate and motivate the masses by bringing awareness to all types of community issues. From love to politics, roots and culture, these mujeres are overflowing in musical messages which stem from an everpresent resistance & solidarity for all indigenous struggles through out the world. Guerrilla Queenz are Sistahs Centzi & Eyerie former members of Cihuatl Tonali and OJ Papalotl of XMMP, who call themselves Guerrilla Queenz in honor of all those Fallen Wombmyn Freedom Fighters. We stand in COME-Unity with our words as our weapons and sound as our power, power for the people."



**International Noise Conspiracy**

***Communist Moon***

hey brother won't you please open up your heart for me now
and sister the best dreams to dream are still for free
no more dead time with you on my mind with you by my side
our hungry hearts and this old world's about to collide
let it begin tonight we'll win, let it begin tonight we'll win

let's all share our dreams, all share our dreams,
let's all share our dreams under a communist moon all share
our dreams, let's all share our dreams,
all share our dreams under a communist moon

hey sister I'm counting the minutes until you're here with me
yeah and brother if you want to join in please feel free
it comes everywhere it comes all at once below and above
from desperate times comes radical minds living armed love

let's all share our dreams, all share our dreams,
let's all share our dreams under a communist moon all share
our dreams, let's all share our dreams,
all share our dreams under a communist moon
let's all share our dreams, all share our dreams,
let's all share our dreams under a communist moon all share
our dreams, let's all share our dreams,
all share our dreams

we find hope in our hands, it'll see us through the night
and all of our dreams and all our plans will come alive
tonight,
will come alive tonight
let it begin tonight we'll win, let it begin tonight we'll win

let's all share our dreams, all share our dreams,
let's all share our dreams under a communist moon all share
our dreams, let's all share our dreams,
all share our dreams under a communist moon

the moon up above will show you the love to
see us through the night, see us through the night

let's all share our dreams, all share our dreams,
let's all share our dreams under a communist moon
all share our dreams, let's all share our dreams,
all share our dreams under a communist moon...

## New statue of Chairman Mao surprises China

# An enormous new statue of a young Mao Tse-tung has shocked China by portraying him with a long mane of windswept hair.

By Malcolm Moore in Shanghai
Published: 03 Nov 2009, *The Telegraph*

A 32-metre (105 feet) statue of late Chairman Mao Zedong in his youth is seen under construction in Changsha, Hunan province, China Photo: REUTERS

The statue, which has emerged from scaffolding in the central city of Changsha, will eventually stand more than 100 ft tall.

Classic Mao iconography portrays the "Great Helmsman" as an older man, usually wearing a dour overcoat and either standing impressively or waving to a crowd.

The new statue, however, is both seated and of a young Mao, aged 32, when he composed a poem about Changsha.

Xie Liwen, a professor at the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts who was on the creative team, told the *Xiaoxiang Morning Herald* newspaper that "our first concern was uniqueness and artistry."

He said: "This design isn't all that strange. The Mao statues people typically see are mostly of him standing and waving, or else fairly formal and serious. During the creation of this statue of a seated, young Mao Zedong, we were particularly concerned with differentiating it from past images."

He added that the designers hoped to "capture the expansive abandon of the poem [Changsha]."

In the poem, the young Mao describes the view from Juzi island, in the middle of a river running through Changsha, looking at the Yuelu mountain. The statue is sited on the same spot, but faces in the wrong direction.

Huang Yanming, a resident of Changsha who can see the statue from his window, told the newspaper: "Look, how handsome the young Mao was!" Other residents told the newspaper that they were "surprised" to see the Great Helmsman looking "cool and elegant with long hair."

On the Chinese internet, opinion was divided. Some web users praised the "far-sightedness" of the Changsha government, while others compared the statue to the Sphinx.❑

# PEKING REVIEW

[This issue of Peking Review is from massline.org. Massline.org has kindly given us permission to place these documents on the MIA. We made only some formatting changes to make them congruent with our style sheets. Note from massline:org: This article is reprinted from Peking Review, Volume 9, #30, July 22, 1966, pp. 6-11. Thanks are due to the www.wengewang.org web site for some of the work done for this posting.]

## Chairman Mao Is the Red Sun in the Hearts of the People of the World

## - An Account of the Visits of Friends From Five Continents to Chairman Mao's Birthplace at Shaoshan

## FROM CHAIRMAN MAO'S WORKS:

## "The force at the very core that leads our cause is the Communist Party of China.

## "The theoretical basis which guides our thinking is Marxism-Leninism."

*Opening Address Delivered at the First Session of the First National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China*

**"Renmin Ribao" Editor's Note**

"The East is red and the sun rises; in China there emerges Mao Tse-tung." This is a cause of pride and happiness to the Chinese people and all revolutionary people of the world. Shaoshan is sacred soil which all revolutionary people aspire to visit, because Comrade Mao Tse-tung, the great leader of the Chinese people and the great standard-bearer in the revolutionary struggle of all the people of the world, was born there. Many thousands of foreign friends have expressed their boundless love and admiration for Chairman Mao during their visits to Shaoshan over the last few years.

They have gone to Shaoshan not just to recall the history of the Chinese revolution, but also to seek the revolutionary truth. All people who desire revolution draw inspiration and encouragement from Comrade Mao Tse-tung's revolutionary activities.

In the most vivid terms, revolutionaries from different countries have expressed boundless love for Chairman Mao and infinite belief in the thought of Mao Tse-tung. They describe him as "the greatest Marxist-Leninist of our time" and say, "We love him more than we do our own lives." They acclaim Mao Tse-tung's thought as "the beacon of revolution for the people of the world" and as "the unsetting sun."

The love of the revolutionary people of all countries for Chairman Mao is so ardent and their belief in Mao Tse-tung's thought is so wholehearted because Chairman Mao has carried Marxism-Leninism forward to an entirely new stage. Mao Tse-tung's thought reflects the objective laws of the domestic and international class struggle and the fundamental interests of the proletariat and other working people. It is living Marxism-Leninism at its highest. Standing in the forefront of our epoch, and with his incomparably rich revolutionary experience and his outstanding revolutionary theory, which is a work of genius, Chairman Mao has shown the way to victory for all the oppressed people and oppressed nations of the world.

In the course of the great polemics in the international communist movement over the last few years, Mao Tse-tung's thought has spread to wider and wider areas across the world. More and more revolutionary people of the world have grasped it and armed themselves with it. And this has laid the strongest foundation for the victory of the world revolution. It can be stated categorically that in face of the ever-victorious thought of Mao Tse-tung, imperialism, reaction and modern revisionism have no way of averting their inevitable doom, however frantically they may struggle.

## The Revolutionary People the World Over Yearn For Shaoshon, Chairman Mao's Birthplace

*The sun rises from Shaoshan,*
*When the sun comes up, the east is red.*
*Today its red glows in all directions,*
*And the East Wind prevails everywhere.*
- A poem by two friends from Vietnam

The brilliant thought of Mao Tse-tung rises like the morning sun and spread its splendid rays over every part of the earth. It is like an East Wind blowing across the entire globe. The revolutionary people of the world yearn for Shaoshan, Chairman Mao's birthplace. Regardless of great distances and defying many difficulties, more and more foreign friends have been coming to China to visit Shaoshan with the aim of seeking the revolutionary truth and learning from revolutionary experience.

Among friends from five continents visiting Shaoshan are to be found leaders of state, responsible leaders of political parties, activists, and representatives of trade unions and of women's, peasants' and youth organizations. They also include writers, poets, artists, teachers, scholars, doctors, military experts, newspapermen, lawyers, athletes, and foreign experts, students and trainees residing in China.

Filled with boundless respect, many foreign friends laud Shaoshan as "sacred soil for the revolution," "the cradle of revolution" and "the university of revolution." They say, "Shaoshan is like a glittering pearl in the depths of the sea;" "Shaoshan is inscribed with the finest chapters of Marxism-Leninism;" "Shaoshan symbolizes the brilliant future of the oppressed people of Asia, Africa and Latin America;" "the revolutionary spark of Shaoshan has started a fire throughout New China and illuminated the whole world!"

Friends from five continents regard their visit to Shaoshan, the birthplace of the great revolutionary leader of the proletariat of the world, as "a great honour," "the greatest happiness" and "an unforgettable moment in one's life."

A Vietnamese student studying in China said, "We feel exceptionally honoured and proud to have the opportunity to visit Chairman Mao's birthplace. Although it is cold, we feel very warm at heart, and the warmth seems to have spread to the air around us." Some of the visitors bought Chairman Mao's portrait, others when havin9 their pictures taken put on the coir raincoat and the straw hat used by Chairman Mao for farm work during his early days. Still others bought flutes inscribed with the two characters *Shao* and *Shan,* saying, "I will play tunes praising the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao."

A Laotian friend said, "We have studied the thought of Mao Tse-tung, and now that we have visited his birthplace, we feel even more attached to this thought and our understanding of it has became still deeper. We will never forget Chairman Mao as long as we live. We are determined to carry the revolution through to the end. We wish still greater prosperity to Chairman Mao's birthplace. May Mao Tse-tung's thought shine with everlasting brilliance!"

A friend from Uganda said, "I regard this as an historical day in my life What I have seen here, been taught and advised - has deeply convinced me that our struggle at home will be crowned with victory." When the host presented him with a picture book of Shaoshan and a Shaoshan memorial badge, he stood erect with his chest out and declared that he would have the Shaoshan memorial badge pinned higher than all others. He respectfully received the picture book with both hands, saying, "What you have given me is not so much a picture book as a weapon."

The delegation of the Cambodia-China Friendship Association had wanted to visit Chairman Mao Tse-tung's birthplace at the time they left Phnom Penh for China. As soon as they arrived in Changsha, the leader of the delegation inquired, "How far is Shaoshan from here?" The host told him that it was a little over 100 kilometres. "I'll go even it is 1,000 kilometres away!" The leader had only one leg. Supported by a stick, he was shown round the place. More than once the host asked him to rest, but he persisted and said with deep feeling, "In the course of our visit, we take this day as one of great happiness."

A friend from Brazil said, "It is of special significance to visit Shaoshan at the present time when the struggle against modern revisionism has become so fierce."

Dennis, a friend from France, said, "Filled with deep emotion, I revisit Chairman Mao's birthplace."

A friend from Britain said, "There are many memorial revolutionary centres in the world, but none of them is comparable to Shaoshan which leaves an everlasting memory in the hearts of the people. It is my firm belief that tens of thousands of people will come from every part of the world to visit here. This place will go down in history for ever and ever."

Many foreign friends were so excited over the opportunity to visit Shaoshan that they could hardly sleep on the previous night. They got up very early the next morning and put on their best clothes. They were told in the car that they were travelling on the very road taken by Chairman Mao when he returned from Changsha to Shaoshan to make his rural investigations. Some of them said joyfully. "What a happy event to travel on the road once traversed by Chairman Mao!" At Shaoshan, many foreign friends picked stones at places where Chairman Mao had worked, and wrapped them up as souvenirs. When visiting the house of Chairman Mao which is part of the museum, some, with tears streaming down their cheeks, stood silent before the photographs of six martyrs in his family. On the way back to Changsha, many foreign friends lustily sang *The East Is Red,* A *Ship Can't Sail Without* a *Helmsman* and other songs. Back at the guest house, some foreign friends looked at the Hunan embroidery work *Shaoshan* on a screen and said, "Every time I see this, I receive new encouragement."

The journalists' delegation from Laos gave utterance to the inner- feelings shared by the revolutionary people of all countries, "Shaoshan is a great place. It belongs to the Chinese people and it belongs to the people of the world as well. Shaoshan is a place which not only the Chinese people but also the revolutionary people of the world look up to!"

## Chairman Mao Is the Greatest Leader of the People of the World

*Mao Tse-tung,*
*Sage of the common man.*
*Giant of the revolution.*
*Leader of the Chinese people.*
*Beacon for the people of the world!*
*The spark that kindled the Chinese revolution*
*Now sets the world ablaze!*

This is American friend Sidney Rittenberg's poem in praise of our great leader Chairman Mao.

The following is a poem by a poet from Ecuador in praise of Chairman Mao.

*Here he was born,*
*Now he lives in every place where people are fighting!*
*Here he called the earliest revolutionary meetings.*
*Now he has rallied the people of all countries!*
*Here he read his first books.*
*Now he is the teacher of all the revolutionaries of the world!*
*Here he learned to work hard like the peasants.*
*Now he brings happy life to the working people!*

Filled with noble belief in Chairman Mao and showing boundless love for him, all friends from the five continents who visit Shaoshan enthusiastically compose poems or leave inscriptions, or sing and applaud to express their deep affection for Chairman Mao.

A friend from Australia said, "Here in Shaoshan the revolutionary peasants gave birth to a great leader who has won the love and affection not only of his own Chinese people but of all people throughout the world who find that the thought of Mao Tse-tung is a weapon of world revolution. Long live the Chinese Communist Party and its great leader Chairman Mao."

A Spanish friend wrote, "Chairman Mao is the greatest Marxist-Leninist of our time."

A friend from Bechuanaland said, "So long as mankind exists, the light of Chairman Mao will shine like a beacon over mankind."

Members of the Malian handicraft delegation wrote, "Chairman Mao belongs to China and to the whole world. Like the sun, he belongs to all mankind."

A Cuban friend said, "Chairman Mao gives expression to the highest human wisdom. Great revolutions give birth to great leaders. It is only natural for a revolution of world significance such as China's to give rise to a leader of world significance such as Mao Tse-tung. The fact that he was born in this place is a glory to his – country and to the world too. Mao Tse-tung is the staunchest standard-bearer of Marxism-Leninism in the world. He is the hope of the world revolution.

**The People of the World Have Boundless Respect and Admiration for Chairman Mao**

The people of the world have boundless respect and admiration for Chairman Mao because he represents the fundamental interests of the proletariat and other working people the world over, and always has faith in the masses, relies on them, and establishes the closest links with the people. He has the highest wisdom, the greatest courage, the loftiest character and the most modest style of work. He is devoting his whole life to the liberation of the labouring people of China and the world.

A Colombian friend said, "Chairman Mao has worked for the revolution all his life, devoting himself to the revolution heart and soul, and has set a brilliant example for all revolutionaries."

A friend from Lebanon wrote, "Chairman Mao stands staunch, dauntless and firm as a mighty mountain."

Members of a cultural delegation from Algeria wrote, "Chairman Mao is a man with unlimited knowledge, but at the same time he is very modest. One could hardly have imagined his plain way of living."

A friend from Vietnam wrote, "From his childhood. Chairman Mao has taken part in productive labour, stayed close to the oppressed and exploited poor peasants and dedicated his life to the working people. Since the founding of the Chinese Communist Party, Chairman Mao has consistently struggled against opportunist tendencies of all descriptions and defended the purity of Marxism-Leninism."

A Vietnamese friend wrote a poem:

*So many years of eager longing have passed.*
*Although the distance is great, my feelings travel far.*
*And here at last I have come to Chairman Mao's birthplace.*
*The earth is deep, the sea is wide, the sky is high,'*
*But Chairman Mao's warm affection knows no bounds*

A Korean friend said, "The Khrushchev revisionists direct all their slanders at Chairman Mao. We do not believe a single sentence, a single word, they utter. We will always follow Chairman Mao!"

A friend from Laos said. "Chairman Mao is the great leader of the Chinese people and the people of the world. We love him more than our own lives!"

A friend from the Dominican Republic wrote, "It is the blessing of the people of the world to have Chairman Mao."

An Algerian cultural delegation wrote, "The whole world is now deeply in need of Chairman Mao. May he never grow old! The Algerian people will always hold Mao Tse-tung in the very core of their hearts. Long live great Mao Tse-tung!"

The sports delegation of the Albanian Ministry of Internal Affairs expressed the common desire of the revolutionary people throughout the world as follows, "For the benefit of the great Chinese people, the glorious Chinese Communist Party and the revolutionary people throughout the world fighting for emancipation, may Comrade Mao Tse-tung enjoy long life as everlasting as the towering mountains of our country!"

# Mao Tse-tung's Thought Is the Acme of Marxism-Leninism in Our Times

During their visit to Shaoshan friends from Vietnam wrote in the visitors' book: "Mao Tse-tung's thought has been proved to be completely correct by the practice of the Chinese revolution. It has been proved and is being proved to be completely correct and objective truth by the practice of the world revolution." "Mao Tse-tung's thought represents ~he new development of Marxism-Leninism. It is the weapon of the people of the world in their revolutionary struggle and is guiding them to win new and more glorious victories." "Mao Tse-tung's thought has demonstrated its unrivalled power in the great land of China. Chairman Mao led the Red Army in climbing the snow-clad mountains, crossing the marshlands and victoriously completing the Long March of 25,000 *li,* thus planting the revolutionary red flag over the length and breadth of China. Today the long-tested thought of Mao Tse-tung is victoriously leading the Chinese people step by step on the road to a communist society. The Chinese people armed with Mao Tse-tung's thought are working revolutionary miracles every minute in their motherland." "The 650 million Chinese people armed with Mao Tse-tung's thought are 650 million spiritual atom bombs."

Leng Ngeth, head of the delegation of the Cambodia-China Friendship Association, said, "Chairman Mao Tse-tung is the greatest thinker of our time, the wise and revered guide of the 650 million people of China and the inspirer of noble ideals. It is thanks to his thought that the Chinese people have made such tremendous advances, and become the enemy's nightmare."

A Greek friend said, "Mao Tse-tung's thought has enriched and developed Marxism-Leninism. Chairman Mao is the greatest Marxist-Leninist of our era, whose ideas and experience are valuable for the people of the whole world. Many great figures have emerged in the world, but none have studied the peasant question so thoroughly as Chairman Mao, nor has anyone such a versatile mind as he has in the political, economic, military, and literary and artistic fields."

A Burmese friend said, "In his early years Mao Tse-tung already embraced the ideas of prolelarian internationalism," "Mao Tse-tung's thought is developed Marxism-Leninism," "Mao Tse-tung's thought has provided the people of all countries with theoretical weapons."

A friend from the Ivory Coast wrote, "The significance of Mao Tse-tung's thought has gone far beyond China's boundaries, far beyond the limits of Asia. Today all progressive people in the world want to read Chairman Mao's works and visit the places where Chairman Mao once worked or carried on activities. The revolutionary activities of Chairman Mao have indicated a definite direction for the revolution of the Ivory Coast."

A Cameroon friend declared, "Chairman Mao is the successor to Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin -- the great teachers and guides of the international proletariat and all revolutionary people -- and their representative in our times In the struggle against Khrushchev revisionism he has defended and developed Marxism-Leninism. Mao Tse-tung's thought is the beacon light which illuminates the road of resistance for the oppressed people of all countries."

A friend from Rwanda said, "Comrade Mao Tse-tung is the greatest Marxist-Leninist of our era, enjoying the highest international prestige, and it is on him that the people of the world lay their hopes. Mao Tse-tung has become the correct teacher of the proletarian revolutionaries of the world. We should carry out revolution in the direction charted by Mao Tse-tung's thought."

# The People of the World Study and Apply Mao Tse-tung's Thought and Are Determined to Carry the Revolution Through to the End

Many foreign friends told us that people in all countries are avidly studying Mao Tse-tung's thought. In their revolutionary struggles they suffered setbacks and paid dearly -- even in blood -- before they found the truth, became acquainted with the great thought of Mao Tse-tung and realized that the revolution is victorious whenever they act in accordance with Mao Tse-tung's thought and fails whenever they act counter to his thought. They speak very highly of Mao Tse-tung's thought as a powerful ideological weapon in the struggle against imperialism and modern revisionism. It is the radiant sun lighting up the road of world revolution.

Many foreign friends always keep Chairman Mao's works close by and study them even in the course of visiting Shaoshan.

One day a friend from Malawi arrived at Changsha at three o'clock in the afternoon. From the airport he went directly to Shaoshan, visited Chairman Mao's birthplace at five and spent the evening discussing the peasant movement with some local comrades. Back at the hotel in the evening, he read Chairman Mao's *Report on an Investigation* of *the Peasant Movement in Hunan* until 4:00 a.m.

After they return to Changsha from Shaoshan, many foreign friends work late into the night to sort out their notes, ask their interpreters to help check supplementary material and, with the aid of these data, study the *Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung.* Some try to find time to study Mao Tse-tung's works even when they are travelling by bus, train or aeroplane or at their meals. Many foreign friends ask for translation of Chairman Mao's works into still more languages. Some who understand Chinese time and again express their willingness to contribute to this noble task.

A Japanese friend said, "It is our belief that for a revolution to be successful, it is necessary to make a really good study of Mao Tse-tung's thought and apply it in practice."

A friend from Thailand stated, "We should learn from the glorious life of Chairman Mao, remould our outlook on life and our world outlook, and serve the people."

A friend from Ecuador declared, "I had read Chairman Mao's writings before I came to China; and I relied on Mao Tse-tung's thought as my guide during the most difficult times in the struggle against the enemy. Now I realize that we should not only act in accordance with Mao Tse-tung's thought in difficult times, but also take it as our guide in everything we do in day-to-day activities. We must study Chairman Mao's works well and always act in accordance with Mao Tse-tung's thought."

A friend from Somalia said, "When we return home, we will organize still more people in Somalia to study Chairman Mao's works."

A Vietnamese friend said, "The attitude towards Mao Tse-tung's thought is a touchstone for distinguishing true Communists from false ones. All who oppose Mao Tse-tung's thought are sham revolutionaries. They are all counter-revolutionaries. We want always to be honest students of Chairman Mao Tse-tung. All our lives we will study Marxism- Leninism and Mao Tse-tung's thought and be faithful workers serving the cause of world revolution."

An Indonesian friend stated, "Chairman Mao Tse-tung holds aloft the banner of Marxism-Leninism. He is the great fighter against modern revisionism. In order to oppose modern revisionism we must learn from the revolutionary spirit of Chairman Mao Tse-tung."

A Sudanese friend said, "The extremely rich revolutionary experience of Chairman Mao is an asset of the people of the world. We have learned from it the experience of struggle for people's liberation and against imperialism of all descriptions. This experience is the seed of revolution. When we go back to Sudan, we will sow this seed and let it take root and germinate in our country."

An Italian friend said, "I thought that the situation in Italy was different from that in China and that therefore Italy had no need for protracted armed struggle. But through my visit and study in China I have come to understand that Italy must also take the road of protracted armed struggle. Comrade Mao Tse-tung's great theoretical contributions to the development of Marxism are a source from which revolutionaries of all countries can draw inspiration and lessons To make revolution in Western Europe it is imperative to study Mao Tse-tung's works systematically."

With deep emotion a Peruvian friend said "Armed struggle is the only way out, and the peasant question is the principal one. 'We must take the road of encircling the cities from the countryside and study China's experience." He said he would earnestly study Chairman Mao's works after returning to his country.

After summarizing what it had learned from the study of Chairman Mao's works, the journalist delegation of the patriotic forces of Laos wrote. "We must carry what we have

learned into practice and do what is beneficial to the people," and added, "We will learn from Chairman Mao's staunch revolutionary spirit and revolutionary thought and do all we can to fight resolutely against the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their lackeys and to win final victory in the struggle for national liberation."

A friend from southern Vietnam, the anti-imperialist forefront, said, "Mao Tse-tung's thought is towering. Not only can it defeat the reactionaries at home, it can defeat all imperialists as well."

A friend from Colombia declared, "We will hold high the red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought, and from our fighting posts, we will thoroughly eliminate imperialism and modern revisionism."

While on a visit to Chairman Mao's home town, the actors and actresses of the National Djoliba Dance Ensemble of Guinea sang with deep feeling:

*Your work is gigantic,*
*Your thought immortal;*
*They are China's sun.*
*They are the sun of all struggling peoples!*
*I sing Mao, I sing*
*Your gigantic work,*
*Your immortal thought.*
*When I go to Africa,*
*I will sing them*
*To the black masses.*
*If I go to Europe or America,*
*I will sing them*
*To the white masses.*
*Wherever I go,*
*I will proclaim*
*The truth of your thought,*
*The truth of your fight for liberty.*
*For it is all that and more,*
*More than I can say.*

The feelings of revolutionary friends from the five continents on their visit to Shaoshan is shared by the Chinese people. Let us join hands in our fight and cry out with one voice: Workers and oppressed people of the world, unite, hold higher the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought, and fight together to the end for the complete defeat of imperialism, modern revisionism and reaction, and for the final victory of socialism and communism in the whole world!

*- by HUAN CHIU-CHIH*